

MILITARY

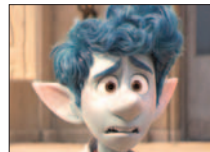
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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Out of the shadows

Frustrated with 19 years of failure to end veteran suicide crisis, advocacy groups put issue center stage before lawmakers

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ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREA VILLARI / Stars and Stripes

ANALYSIS

Coronavirus has US military on defensive in S. Korea

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The rapidly spreading new coronavirus has put the U.S. military on defense against a new enemy in South Korea as it struggles to keep troops ready to fight the old one.

The virus has infected more than 100,000 people after spreading to more than 60 countries, including the United States. Un-

'You used to just have to worry about missiles from North Korea. Now you've got to worry about viruses in your backyard.'

Daniel Davis
retired Army officer

Related staff coverage:

■ Moves to new assignments halted for troops in S. Korea, Italy
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certainty surrounding the pneumonia-like illness has caused stock markets to plunge as people increasingly stay home.

In many ways, the military is uniquely poised to keep the virus at bay by sharply restricting ac-

cess to fortress-like bases and ordering service members to stay inside the perimeter as much as possible.

Soldiers armed with questionnaires and thermometers have been deployed to access gates to

check everybody trying to enter posts for possible exposure to the virus and signs of a fever.

So far, only seven people affiliated with U.S. Forces Korea,

SEE DEFENSIVE ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS/WEATHER

UBS Bank won't fund new offshore Arctic drilling

Associated Press

KENAI, Alaska — A multinational investment bank has ended support for offshore drilling in the Arctic amid efforts to tackle climate change, a move that could affect future funding for oil and gas projects in Alaska, a newspaper said.

Switzerland-based UBS Bank joined several other investment companies in pulling funding and support for new offshore projects in the region, the Anchorage

Daily News reported Friday.

The firm has "committed to no longer provide financing where the stated use of proceeds is for new offshore oil projects in the Arctic," the bank said in a statement.

Multiple U.S. banks, including Wells Fargo & Co., Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase, have also announced similar policy shifts, stating that they were no longer supporting new projects in the region.

Some have argued, however,

that these new policies could hurt projects that Alaska relies on for future revenue.

Major oil companies in Alaska are not dependent on banks for their projects because they often use their own cash flow or sell assets, but the announcements could make it difficult for smaller operators to receive loans to borrow money for future plans, said Larry Persily, former federal coordinator for Alaska gas line projects under President Barack Obama.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Euro costs (March 9).....	\$1.1633	Switzerland (Franc).....0.9370
Dollar buys (March 9).....	60.8596	Thailand (Baht).....31.49
British pound (March 9).....	\$1.33	Turkey (Lira).....6.0836
Japanese yen (March 9).....	104.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)
South Korean won (March 9).....	1,161.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar).....	0.3767	
British pound.....	\$1.3013	
Canada (Dollar).....	1.3425	
China (Yuan).....	6.9320	
Denmark (Krone).....	6.6020	
Egypt (Pound).....	15.6408	
Hong Kong (Dollar).....	\$1.1314/0.8838	
Hungary (Forint).....	7.7722	
Israel (Shekel).....	286.86	
Japan (Yen).....	105.23	
Kuwait (Dinar).....	0.3054	
Norway (Krone).....	9.2553	
Poland (Zloty).....	50.54	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal).....	3.7279	
Singapore (Dollar).....	1.3784	
South Korea (Won).....	1,189.36	

INTEREST RATES

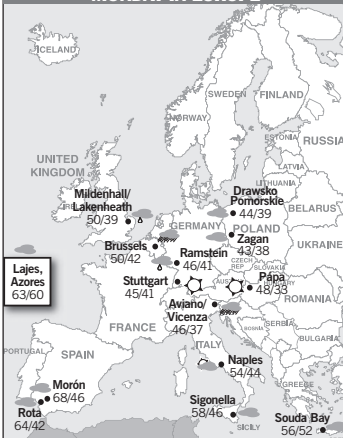
Prime rate.....	4.25
Discount rate.....	1.75
Federal funds market rate.....	1.58
3-month bill.....	0.49
30-year bond.....	1.22

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

TODAY

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MILITARY

Japanese woman convicted in airman's death

By SETH ROBSON
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TACHIKAWA, Japan — A Tokyo court on Friday sentenced a Japanese woman to 15 years in prison with hard labor for stabbing her American airman boyfriend to death at his off-base home in western Tokyo.

Aria Saito, 28, of Tokyo, was convicted of murder in the death of Air Force Master Sgt. Nicholas Vollweiler, 35, who served as the security forces squadron's chief of standards and evaluation at Yokota Air Base. She was also found guilty of violating Japan's Swords and Firearms Control Law.

Presiding Judge Yu Takeshita said that Saito, in breaking into Vollweiler's home on the evening of Nov. 9, 2018, with two knives and stabbing him with one blow that caused a fatal, 1½-inch wound on his neck, showed her strong intent to kill.

The judge said he believed Saito was furious after finding out that Vollweiler was married and wanted to end his relationship with Saito. She ignored police warnings to stay away from his home after breaking his possessions Nov. 3 and returned the day of the murder, Takeshita said.

However, Takeshita said he believed Saito did not plan the murder but became emotionally cornered and acted after Voll-

weiler's supervisor gave her five minutes to leave the house.

The court, composed of three judges and six jurors, gave Saito 300 days' credit for time already spent in detention. Saito may be considered for parole after serving one-third — five years — of her sentence, according to an official at the Ministry of Justice's corrections bureau.

On Monday, the victim's parents, Bernard and Laura Vollweiler, of Saylorsburg, Pa., asked the court to impose a life sentence or at least 60-70 years since their son might have lived that much longer.

Takeshita said the family's desire for severe punishment was understandable.

There is strong evidence that Saito has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and an inability to control her emotions, Takeshita said. He said those factors contributed to the crime but did not cause it. Saito appears remorseful and has shown willingness to seek help, he added.

Takeshita advised Saito to continue to think about Vollweiler during her incarceration. He also said she should think about him and what she has done even after she is released.

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TERON GOBOLD/Stars and Stripes

A photo of Master Sgt. Nicholas Vollweiler is carried during a memorial service at Yokota Air Base, Japan, in November 2018. Vollweiler's Japanese girlfriend, who stabbed him to death, was sentenced to 15 years in prison with hard labor Friday.

Yokota base to host new talk series

By THERON GOBOLD
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A daylong series of brief, live presentations here on March 27 are planned around individual speakers expounding on an idea, just like a TED Talk.

But don't call it a TED Talk. Instead, call it Yokota Hanashiba, a Japanese word that means "talking place."

The organizers of Yokota Hanashiba wanted to produce a TEDx event but the TED Foundation, the U.S.-based nonprofit organization that owns the rights, would not license an event on an overseas military base, said Debbie Stevens, community support coordinator for the 374th Airlift Wing at Yokota.

So she said, the plan evolved into something like TEDx, a series of talks and videos before a live audience at a local venue, in this case, the ballroom at the Yokota Officer's Club.

"Putting this together has been like a riddle," she said. "We have kept to the TEDx format in preparation for trying [again] in the future."

TED stands for technology, entertainment and design. The



TERON GOBOLD/Stars and Stripes

First Lt. Tim Barbera, of Dayton, Ohio, practices his speech for an upcoming TED Talk-style conference called Yokota Hanashiba slated for late March at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

organization is probably best known for short, pithy, inspirational videos on numerous topics by a variety of speakers posted on the TED website and YouTube.

The theme of Yokota Hanashiba is "Voices of Yokota," with speakers from a "diverse community," including a military spouse, a citizen of Japan and a teacher from the Defense Department schools on base, Stevens said.

"We didn't want only big named and polished folks," she said. "We wanted all the stories to be told."

About 10 people are expected to speak during the day, said Air Force 1st Lt. Tim Barbera, who plans on giving a talk about how social media uses up an inordinate amount of an individual's

time. "I just wanted to share some of the things I've learned," Barbera said. "I think we get locked into routine, our vision narrows in [our] day-to-day and events like this allow us to take stock."

Each "talk" should last no longer than 18 minutes, Stevens said.

Seating will be limited to 100, including staff. Tickets will go on sale March 13 to Defense Department ID cardholders. Stevens said they would likely cost \$10. The event, scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with a lunch break, will be livestreamed on Facebook.

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Ramstein airman faces court-martial in crash death of German

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — A young Ramstein airman faces negligent homicide and involuntary manslaughter charges for his role in a car crash that killed a German teen more than a year ago.

Airman 1st Class Tolman D. Roman Bahena deferred entering a plea at an arraignment hearing Friday.

He also faces charges of reckless endangerment, reckless driving, and dereliction of duty for failing to obey the speed limit and not returning to his lane after passing a vehicle.

Roman Bahena was driving a Chevrolet Camaro on the evening of Feb. 6, 2019, when he crashed head-on into a Piaggio Ape, a three-wheeled light commercial vehicle with a Vespa scooter as a base.

The Piaggio driver, a 17-year-old German male from nearby Weierbach, died at the scene along L367, a two-lane road a few minutes' drive from Ramstein Air Base. The victim has not been identified publicly.

Roman Bahena, then 20, was newly assigned to Ramstein at

the time of the crash.

Another preliminary hearing is set for April 30 and a court-martial is scheduled to start on May 4. German authorities ceded jurisdiction of the case a day after the crash.

Ramstein legal officials said they could not say what maximum punishment Roman Bahena faces due to the number of factors involved in the case.

Involuntary manslaughter carries a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, while the maximum sentence for negligent homicide under the Uniform Code of Military Justice is three years of confinement.

Roman Bahena did not say much during Friday's hearing. The few in attendance included the victim's parents.

The airman is not in pretrial confinement, officials said.

Roman Bahena's Air Force defense team said at a preliminary hearing last year that their client had no alcohol or drugs in his system and there was no evidence that he or his wife, a passenger in the car, were texting around the time of the crash.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

US military restricts S. Korea, Italy moves

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The Army has halted moves to new assignments for troops stationed in South Korea through May in a bid to slow the spread of the new coronavirus, officials said Sunday.

The decision, which was announced a day after the Army unveiled the same measures for troops based in the United States, also affects travel for professional military education in the United States.

Both U.S. allies are in the midst of major outbreaks of the virus, with more than 7,300 confirmed cases in South Korea and nearly 6,000 in Italy.

The Army has ordered a stop for "all Army soldiers and family

members moving to or from South Korea or soldiers scheduled to attend professional military education in the United States due to COVID-19 concerns," U.S. Forces Korea said in a statement.

"USFK is analyzing the impacts this decision will have on those affected," it said, adding that it only applies to Eighth Army soldiers on permanent change of station orders or attending the education courses.

"The Army's order is in effect immediately through May 6, 2020, or until further notice," USFK said, advising those affected to contact their chain of command for further instructions.

Seven people affiliated with USFK, including an American soldier and his wife, have tested positive for the respiratory virus

despite precautionary measures including a ban on nonessential travel or outside social activities for service members.

The military also has restricted access to bases and implemented health screening at gates, including a questionnaire asking about possible exposure and temperature checks.

The news caused much confusion among military families, with some commenting on Facebook that they had flights scheduled within hours.

Others worried about being stranded because they already had moved out of their apartment and sold their car.

Camp Humphreys, the main U.S. base in South Korea, planned a Facebook live update to discuss

the issue but delayed it several times before announcing it would be postponed until Monday.

USFK promised to help reduce the negative impact on soldiers and families who have already had their household goods packed and shipped.

"The health and welfare of our service members and their families continues to be our top priority," it said.

The statement did not provide more details, but the commands received the orders from the Army on Friday night, according to Maj. Gen. Roger Cloutier, commander of Vicenza-based U.S. Army Africa.

"This decision affects soldiers, civilians and their families differently based on where they are

in the PCS cycle," Vogel said in announcing the decision for Italy on Saturday.

Those who were to attend professional military education in the U.S. will not be able to unless the course is for six months or longer, the message said. In those cases, participants will travel to the U.S. two weeks early and be quarantined before attending the school.

Some 28,500 American service members are stationed in South Korea, which technically remains at war with the North after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

Stars and Stripes reporter Nancy Montgomery in Vicenza, Italy, contributed to this report.
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Defensive: Service members based in South Korea work to keep readiness amid concerns

FROM FRONT PAGE

including an American soldier and his wife, have been infected, a tiny fraction of the more than 7,300 confirmed cases nationwide.

But the possibility of a prolonged outbreak has raised concerns about the military's ability to maintain fighting capabilities against the growing nuclear threat from North Korea while preoccupied with keeping its forces from getting sick.

Balancing act

"You have to strike a balance between maintaining your readiness and trying to prevent the spread of the virus," said Thomas Spoehr, a retired Army lieutenant general. "But in the end, you have to keep training, unless it really gets to be a real crisis situation."

The United States and South Korea have canceled a computer-simulated joint command post exercise that had been planned for this month, citing coronavirus fears. The Army also halted moves to new assignments in South Korea and Italy through May in a bid to slow the spread of the virus.

Both U.S. allies are suffering from the worst outbreaks of the virus outside China, where it first appeared in late December, with more than 7,300 confirmed cases in South Korea and nearly 6,000 in Italy.

The Army's decision — announced this weekend — left many military families in the midst of a permanent change of station, or PCS, scrambling to adjust.

It also appeared to catch the command off-guard, with USFK planning, then canceling a Facebook live update to discuss the implications on Sunday. It prom-

ised to hold one on Monday to give officials time to get answers.

CNN has quoted several anonymous defense officials as warning that overall U.S. military readiness may start degrading by the end of March if countries continue to close borders and restrict travel.

In a reminder that the threats remain, North Korea conducted a short-range ballistic missile test on March 2 in what experts said was likely aimed at projecting strength after the U.S. and South Korea postponed their training drill.

Difficult choices

Commanders on the ground have faced difficult decisions while insisting their No. 1 priority is protecting the force.

The Fort Riley, Kan.-based 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, known as the Dagger Brigade, completed its transfer of authority from the previous rotational brigade in a ceremony on Wednesday.

Last week, USFK also resumed sending soldiers and their families who had been held at Camp Humphreys for about 10 days to the Army garrison in the southeastern city of Daegu, which is at the center of South Korea's outbreak.

"It's all about maintaining combat readiness," Maj. Gen. Patrick Donahoe, the Eighth Army's deputy commander for operations, said. "We've got to maintain the strength of those units."

"We're still moving forward with an abundance of caution," he said in an interview last week about the decision to send the troops to USAG Daegu. "We have got to be focused on preserving our readiness through protecting our force from this virus."



SIMON McTIZO/U.S. Army

The 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, "Dagger" 1st Infantry Division, conducts a transfer of authority ceremony Wednesday, after arriving in South Korea for a nine-month rotation amid fears of the spread of a new coronavirus.

"The normal training, normal activities — that is something we'll look at really over time," he added.

USFK faces additional worries as an expected furlough of South Korean employees is due to begin in just over three weeks amid deadlocked defense cost-sharing talks between the allies.

Officials have warned that it will lead to delayed services and reduced hours for many administrative functions, although they have prepared measures to reduce the impact on health and safety needs.

Spoehr, who now serves as a defense expert with the Heritage Foundation, said the military has to maintain business as usual as much as possible.

"You can't keep piling up people at Camp Humphreys," he said.

"People were sent to Korea to join units that have already had people rotating out or about to rotate out," he added. "You've got to fill those holes otherwise you start to go down in readiness."

USFK commands some 28,500

American troops in South Korea, which remains technically at war with the North after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

Contingency plans

Daniel Davis, a retired Army officer who served in South Korea, said soldiers are used to risk but fears of a pandemic could be distracting.

"You used to just have to worry about missiles from North Korea. Now you've got to worry about viruses in your backyard," he said. "It really can't help but have some impact as soldiers worry about family members."

Davis, a senior fellow with the Washington, D.C.-based think tank Defense Priorities, also said he would be surprised if officials hadn't begun contingency planning for potential evacuations.

USFK already has well-honed plans for noncombatant evacuation operations due to the threat from the North.

But Davis noted a coronavirus

evacuation would face the additional need for quarantines. "You've got to plan for the worst case scenario," he said.

Military commanders also have acknowledged another danger for American troops and families who are largely confined to the base as the crisis enters its third week — boredom.

Pvt. Derika Walters, a petroleum specialist with the 194th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, said she spends more time in the gym since "there is nothing else to do."

"We can't really go out into the community," the 20-year-old Beaumont, Texas, native said last week at Camp Humphreys, the main U.S. base in South Korea.

Walters said she's not scared of the virus since most of the people who have died were elderly or had other health problems.

"They keep reassuring me that because I am 20, I will be fine," she said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Matthew Keeler contributed to this report.
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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Northern Italy on lockdown after jump in virus cases

Associated Press

ROME — Italy took a page from China's playbook Sunday, locking down around 16 million people — more than a quarter of its population — for nearly a month to halt the relentless march of the new coronavirus across Europe.

Weddings, museums, shopping malls, and even restaurants are all hit by the new restrictions, which focus on a swath of northern Italy but are disrupting daily life around the country.

From Venice to Milan, confusion reigned as residents and tourists tried to figure out when and how the new measures were coming into effect. Travelers came aboard standing-room only trains, tucking their faces into scarves and sharing sanitizing gel.

After Italy saw its biggest one-

day jump in infections, Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte signed a quarantine decree overnight for the country's prosperous north. Areas under lockdown include Milan, Italy's financial hub and the main city in Lombardy, and Venice, the main city in the neighboring Veneto region. The extraordinary measures will be in place until April 3.

The fate of foreign visitors stuck in Italy's new quarantine zones is still unclear.

The World Health Organization has said China's move helped the rest of the world prepare for the virus to arrive, and WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus tweeted his support Sunday for Italians and their "bold, courageous steps aimed at slowing the speed of the coronavirus."

China has suffered about three-

fourths of the world's 106,000 coronavirus infections and most of its nearly 3,600 deaths. New infections in Italy have leveled off dramatically, however, and most of those infected, in China and globally, have already recovered.

Lombardy's governor, who is in quarantine himself, sought to calm the public, discouraging hoarding and insisting "we're not going to war."

Chaos erupted in the hours before Conte signed the decree, as word leaked about the planned quarantine. Italy is up to 5,883 cases as of Saturday, and the death toll rose to 233.

Elsewhere, the virus outbreak has left the cruise ship industry in disarray.

The Grand Princess cruise ship, where 21 people have tested positive for the virus, was head-



CECILIA FABIANO, LA PRESSE/AP

Travelers wear face masks as they wait at the Termini train station Sunday in Rome.

ing Sunday to Oakland, Calif., after idling off San Francisco for days. It expects to land Monday. Dozens of Americans will be transferred to a military base outside Atlanta for testing, but it's not yet clear what will happen to passengers from other countries.

The ship had a cluster of almost 20 infections during an earlier voyage that has led to one death. Another cruise ship is in quar-

antine on the Nile in Egypt with 45 confirmed virus cases. Two other ships with no confirmed cases were turned away this weekend from Malaysia and Malta amid virus fears.

The U.S. death toll from the virus climbed to 19, with most victims in Washington state. Infections rose to over 430, including the first case in the nation's capital.

Korean DODEA schools remain closed

By DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

Defense Department schools in Korea will remain closed through March 13 due to continuing concerns over COVID-19 in that country.

Students from Camp Humphreys, Daegu garrison and Osan Air Base will continue with on-line instruction in the interim, said officials with Department of Defense Education Activity's Korea district on Friday.

When the schools reopen, new guidelines will be in place to ensure they are ready for the students' safe return, according to a statement by Korea district superintendent Jeff Arrington, a copy of which was obtained by Stars and Stripes.

Those guidelines include:

- Screening students for signs of the virus prior to boarding school buses or entering schools
- Placing hand sanitizer stations in each classroom
- Wiping down classrooms frequently with sanitizing wipes
- Increasing distance between students by spacing their desks appropriately
- Daily sanitation of hallways, large rooms and locker exteriors
- Developing a protocol for handling those who displays COVID-19 symptoms at school

The guidelines were put in place following meetings between U.S. Forces Korea and DODEA Korea district officials. DODEA Pacific chief of staff Todd Schlitz told Stars and Stripes on Friday.

"Our school principals, in concert with command and medical officials, are working hard to return students to a safe zone in schools that satisfies the mitigation criteria that has been established," Arrington wrote in the statement.



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

Department of Defense Education Activity Schools in Korea have been closed due to an outbreak of the new coronavirus.

He expects another update on school closings on March 13, according to the message.

"Schools will reopen when we are satisfied with the mitigation efforts put in place," the letter said.

In the meantime, online classes will be in place for a second full week.

"We will continue to work in close cooperation and partnership with USFK and continue to monitor the situation," Schlitz said.

DODEA schools in Japan remain open and after-school tryouts and practices for spring sports are proceeding as normal, said Schlitz and DODEA-Pacific athletics coordinator Tom McKinney.

However, no games or athletic competitions are scheduled through the end of March, according to a letter sent to parents and teachers March 1 by DODEA-Pa-

cific director Lois Rapp, a copy of which was obtained by Stars and Stripes.

"We will revisit the option of continuing activities starting in April," Rapp's letter said.

DODEA-Pacific's regional junior science and humanities symposium is still scheduled for March 16-17, but as an online event. A decision whether to allow the Far East Honor Music Festival April 20-23 at Yokota High School in Japan and the Creative Expressions Festival April 27-30 at Temple University in Tokyo will be made March 18, Schlitz said.

All Far East spring sports tournaments — baseball, track and field, softball and soccer — are still scheduled for May 22-24, McKinney said. A date for a final go or no-go decision has not been established yet, he said.

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Two presumptive cases in Va. bring D.C. area virus count to 7

The Washington Post

Virginia has its second presumptive case of coronavirus, health officials announced Sunday, bringing the total number of cases in the Washington, D.C., area to seven.

The person is a resident of Fairfax County in their 80s who "traveled on a similar Nile cruise" as other patients who have tested positive, the Virginia Department of Health said. The resident showed signs of a respiratory illness on Feb. 28 and was hospitalized Thursday. The person is in stable condition.

This announcement comes less than a day after the state announced its first presumptive positive patient — a U.S. Marine assigned to Fort Belvoir. The Marine had returned recently from "official business" overseas, tweeted Jonathan Rath Hoffman, assistant to the secretary of defense for public affairs.

On Thursday, Maryland health officials announced that three individuals in Montgomery County — a couple in their 70s and a woman in her 50s — tested positive for the virus after returning home from a cruise on the Nile. On Saturday, Mayor Muriel Bowser announced the District of Columbia's first two presumptive cases: a man in his 50s who is hospitalized, and a visitor who stayed in D.C. before testing positive for the virus in a Maryland hospital.

Bowser said the D.C. man being treated for the virus was not believed to have traveled outside the United States or been in close contact with anyone else who is infected. He was admitted to a D.C. hospital on Thursday; his infection was confirmed by the city's public health lab late Satur-

day afternoon.

The mayor said the other person developed symptoms of COVID-19 while visiting the District, then went to a hospital in Maryland for testing. She said he is still hospitalized in Maryland.

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MILITARY



J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

Kamila Azizi, 18, speaks at a conference Sunday to celebrate International Women's Day at American University of Afghanistan in Kabul about how to protect the gains made by Afghan women since 2001.

Afghan women worry their rights will be a bartering tool at talks with Taliban

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan women fear that their hard-won rights could be bargained away when government negotiators meet with the Taliban to map out the future of the country, female students at an American-backed university said Sunday.

Many of those gathered at the American University of Afghanistan to celebrate International Women's Day were too young to have experienced the terror inflicted on women by the Taliban when they ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. They knew, however, that they wanted to keep the rights women have gained since the Taliban was ousted by the U.S.-led coalition more than 18 years ago.

"(The Taliban) have to deal with the fact that women today are not the women they dealt with during the 1990s," 18-year-old Kamila Azizi said in English. "They will have to make an adjustment."

Azizi exemplifies the gains that Afghan women have made since the Taliban were forced from power. When she begins business studies at a local college, she will be one of more than 100,000 Afghan women who attend university — something denied them under the Taliban.

When the Taliban ruled Afghanistan, women were not only banned from getting an educa-

tion, but also from leaving the house without a male chaperone, from working, from accessing health care provided by a man or from being involved in politics. A woman could be "flogged for showing an inch or two of skin under her full-body burqa, beaten for attempting to study, stoned to death if she was found guilty of adultery," Amnesty International UK said in a 2014 report.

Today, women hold 28% of seats in Afghanistan's parliament, a higher percentage of female representation than in the U.S. Congress, New York-based Human Rights Watch said. More than 85,000 women work as teachers, professors, judges, doctors and in other professions, U.S. officials have said.

The Taliban insist they have become more tolerant in the nearly two decades since they were forced from power, and that they support women's rights, provided they fall within the "framework of Islamic values."

But at the university gathering on Sunday, political science student Nekhat Sadeq, 19, said that she doesn't trust them to preserve the gains women have made.

"I am scared I am going to lose the basic human rights I have now, which is not much," Sadeq said in English. "What is a peace where we don't ensure the basic human rights of 51% of our population?"

A long-awaited peace deal signed a little over a week ago

by Taliban and American negotiators mandates a phased drawdown of American, NATO and foreign partner troops from Afghanistan and a disavowal of al-Qaida and other terror groups by the Taliban. It also calls for intra-Afghan talks, due to start this week, which will include the Taliban and the government in Kabul.

But the deal, which the U.S. has said the Taliban violated within days of its signing, makes no mention of women's rights.

Those are supposed to be on the agenda at the intra-Afghan talks, but Azizi worried that the mostly male negotiators will barter women's rights for peace.

"Just because we have the opportunity to negotiate with the Taliban, we should not sacrifice women's rights," she said.

At a meeting on the eve of International Women's Day, U.S. diplomat Zalmay Khalilzad assured Afghan businesswomen that the U.S. was "committed to strong female representation at intra-Afghan negotiations," and urged Afghans "to design a future ... that honors internationally recognized values around the rights and roles of women."

"Afghans have no nostalgia for the Afghanistan of the 1990s, nor does the international community," Khalilzad said.

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Military rushes to face new reality in Middle East

By MISSY RYAN
The Washington Post

KUWAIT CITY — In the weeks since an American drone strike killed Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, U.S. military leaders have been sprinting to confront a dangerous new reality in the Middle East.

From Saudi Arabia, where troops are setting up the first U.S. presence in more than a decade, to Syria, where small teams of Americans operate near Iranian-linked forces, to Afghanistan, where officials have detected an increase in Iranian aid to the Taliban, the military is bracing for a potentially catastrophic escalation.

In visits to seven countries over the past month, the top U.S. commander for the region, Gen. Kenneth "Frank" McKenzie Jr., cautioned American troops that the ballistic missile strike Iran launched days after Soleimani's death in Baghdad on Jan. 3 was unlikely the final salvo following Iran's loss of a peerless military figure.

"They're under greater pressure, and entities under great pressure can react very aggressively," McKenzie told sailors in the Arabian Sea.

Officials say that Iran and its proxies have used rockets and mortars in a resumption of smaller-scale attacks on U.S. and allied targets since Soleimani's death and, in a previously unreported development, that American officials believe was a modified Russian SA-6 surface-to-air missile to shoot down a Saudi aircraft over Yemen on Feb. 14.

Saudi officials earlier this past week also announced that they had disrupted an attempted attack on an oil tanker off of Yemen using remote-controlled explosive boats, which recalled earlier incidents that the kingdom has blamed on Iran-linked Houthi rebels.

What Iran's long-term response will be, and how President Donald Trump might answer, are some of the unknowns that military leaders must contend with in the months ahead.

A possible acceleration of Iran's long effort to end the U.S. presence in the Middle East is one reason why military leaders are racing to put new protections in place for American troops, now seen at greater risk, as they watch for signs of changed Iranian behavior.

Soleimani's death "was such a shock, so outrageous and such a break from past American behavior that Iran has basically decided it needs the U.S. out, and needs them out in real time," said Kenneth Pollack, a scholar at the

American Enterprise Institute. "It's just too dangerous for Iran to live next door to Donald Trump."

About 80,000 U.S. service members are deployed across the U.S. Central Command's area of control, 20,000 more than when U.S. officials say that a string of Iranian provocations against the U.S. and its allies began last spring.

The Pentagon has placed additional missile defense systems in countries including Saudi Arabia and Jordan over the past year. But the exposed nature of many U.S. outposts was made clear on Jan. 8, when Tehran launched about a dozen ballistic missiles at two bases housing U.S. troops in Iraq, the first such attack on American forces since the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

U.S. commanders credited advance warning systems — along with a healthy dose of luck — for the bloodless outcome, though more than 100 service members suffered concussive injuries.

McKenzie traveled to Iraq in early February to get a first-hand look at the wreckage at the Ain al-Asad base, where charred sleeping quarters and giant impact craters were proof of the challenges military leaders must confront.

The Marine general brought years of combat experience in America's post-2001 counterinsurgency wars, including deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan — to CENTCOM when he assumed command last spring.

But from his first moments at CENTCOM's Tampa, Fla. headquarters, he faced a different kind of challenge: a heightened threat from an important state power.

In remarks throughout the region, McKenzie repeated his belief that "deterrence is born of capability and will." Military officials said that combination was made newly compelling by the decision to undertake a targeted killing which previous administrations had considered but dismissed as too hazardous.

That deterrence strategy is visible off the Arabian Peninsula, where an amphibious ready group, with its more than 4,000 sailors and Marines, Harrier jets and giant landing craft, is among the sea-based assets standing by in case of sudden escalation. The flotilla was diverted from a mission to train American troops, now seen at greater risk, as they watch for signs of changed Iranian behavior.

"We've brought some significant naval and Marine assets into the theater to send a signal to Iran that while we don't seek war with you ... we're prepared to respond if we have to," McKenzie told troops on the USS Bataan, then operating in the Red Sea.

VETERANS

Advocates take vet suicide crisis up to Capitol Hill

By STEVE BEYNON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More veterans die by suicide every two days than were killed in action last year. After almost two decades of post-9/11 conflicts, lawmakers and Defense Department officials are no closer to ending the suicide crisis. There's no single cause, no "type" of veteran, no guarantee of access to mental health care, no single solution. The funding is there — the Department of Veterans Affairs is the second-largest federal agency, behind the DOD in size and budget — and there has been little pushback on the 14% boost in funding requested for 2021.

So why are veterans still killing themselves at an alarming rate?

The suicide epidemic took center stage on Capitol Hill last week, with a large roster of veteran advocacy groups testifying before the Veterans Affairs Committees of both legislative branches and lobbying hundreds of lawmakers, sounding the alarm on a number of issues veterans face — most notably suicide.

Jan Brown, head of the nonpartisan advocacy group American Veterans, urged that Congress and the VA reevaluate aging methods of approaching mental health care, blasting the system as "horribly broken."

After decades of well-intentioned efforts, Congress and the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have failed to put a dent in the crisis of nearly 20 veterans dying by suicide every day, about one and a half times as high as the civilian suicide rate, according to the most recent federal statistics.

"Regardless of billions spent, our suicide numbers haven't budged an inch," Brown said. "Why are we so afraid to try anything different?"

Lawmakers and officials say they are frustrated by the lack of nontraditional approaches to the crisis and the expectation that Congress can fix it.

"We will never solve the problem at the 30,000-foot level where we are," Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., the top Republican on the House Committee on Veterans Affairs said in an interview with Stars and Stripes. "I don't care how many bills we pass." Noting that veteran advocacy groups are critical in guiding veterans to mental health care on a local level, Roe said Congress can't solve the problem on its own, "it's got to be fixed from the ground up."

While access to high-quality mental health services is viewed as central to suicide preven-

Resources

■ **Veteran Crisis Line**, staffed 24 hours a day; 800-273-8255. Select "1" for a Veterans Affairs staffer. It is the same number used for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.
En Español: 888-628-9454
Deaf and hard of hearing: 800-799-4889.
Online: veteranscrisisline.net

tion, about 70% of veterans who commit suicide do not use VA facilities.

"How do you identify those veterans who never show up?" Roe said. "How do you look at us spending [more] money in this year's budget and we have not moved the needle one lick in the last 17 or 18 years?"

No single cause

Between 2005 and 2017, 78,875 veterans took their own lives, according to the most recent data from the VA — more than the number of Americans killed in each major conflict except for World War II and the Civil War.

The reasons are not fully understood, but the numbers reflect a burden with heavy wartime demands after almost two decades of post-9/11 wars. Some explanations from studies, news reports and experts have pointed to post-traumatic stress disorder, misuse of medication, traumatic brain injuries, financial issues, family problems, military sexual assault and combat experiences. However, a substantial portion of suicides are committed by those who did not deploy. In 2018, for example, 41.7% of service members who killed themselves had never deployed to a combat zone.

"Veteran suicide is a public health crisis and addressing it is complex. There are many factors that lead to suicide, and we know that what will work for older male veterans may not be the same as what will help for younger women veterans," Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., the chairman of the House VA committee said in a statement. "That's why our solutions must be multidimensional. ... It's clear we need action now, and VA must start making more meaningful change by implementing interventions that can be effective."

Not about funding

VA is the only agency looking for a double-digit budget boost in 2021, requesting a 14% increase



VINCENT DE GROOT/U.S. Air National Guard

After years of failing to end the crisis, advocacy groups brought the veteran suicide epidemic before Congress as numbers grow at an alarming rate.

to \$243.3 billion. That includes \$10.2 billion for mental health care, a \$683 million increase over this year's budget.

On Wednesday, some Democrats pushed back on the size of the increase, calling it "unrealistic and political." Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., called it a "fantasy budget" during the House Committee on Appropriations subpanel hearing.

The agency's budget has increased consistently since the beginning of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. But even with the financial support, Congress and the VA are at a standstill on overhauling the system.

"Suicide prevention is my top clinical priority," VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said in a House Committee on Appropriations subpanel hearing Wednesday. "We are actively implementing a comprehensive public health approach to reach all veterans."

In the meantime, Congress continues to take small steps to address suicide prevention.

Takano introduced a bill that would entitle any former service member to emergency mental health care, regardless of discharge status. The bill has yet to pass out of the committee but is unlikely to face serious opposition.

Republicans want to expand community care. In December, the House VA committee passed the Improve Well-Being for Veterans Act down party lines. The bill looks to implement a pilot program giving federal grants to mental-health providers outside the VA. The effort ignited a partisan feud regarding oversight of the funds and clinical care. Takano scrapped grants for clinical care from the bill, much to the ire of the GOP. The Republicans are seeking a second chance for the Improve Act, with the Senate version maintaining clinical care, and it just passed through the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

"No matter how much money we continue to pour into traditional VA [services] that money

is not going to reach the target market," Rep. Jack Bergman, R-Mich., who originally authored the bill, said in an interview with Stars and Stripes. The goal of the Improve Act is "to allow VA to establish three-year grants to local community care providers. To reach this target market we are not historically reaching." He called fears of creeping VA privatization "disingenuous."

Access to guns

The overwhelming majority of service members who die by suicide are white, enlisted, male and under 30, and most used firearms, according to 2018 Pentagon data. This falls in line with the civilian population.

Craig Bryan, executive director of the National Center for Veterans Studies, said easy access to firearms greatly elevates risk. According to the VA, 50% of veterans own guns.

A 2018 study from the American Public Health Association found that access to a firearm was "a key factor increasing one's risk for completing suicide," and that states with higher rates of gun ownership have higher suicide rates.

"We spend hardly any time talking about the role of firearms," Bryan said. "Research suggests that the use of gun safes and other locking devices can reduce the likelihood of suicide, though. Encouraging the use of storage and locking devices could have a significant impact on military suicides."

Beyond mental health

In finding new ways to approach the crisis, not every solution should focus on mental health treatment.

"The biggest blind spot involves continuing to view suicide only from the lens of mental health," Bryan said. "So long as we continue to assume that suicide results from mental illness and can only be prevented via mental health treatment, we'll continue to fall short."

In some situations, simply leaving a military environment can cause veterans to feel out of sync with society. Combat is one of the most complicated dynamics of war, where veterans can miss the rush of adrenaline and the human cohesion.

"When service members leave the military, they leave a team-first culture that has a very clear mission, recognizable symbols of status and achievement, and more than 240 years of history and culture," said Joe Plenzler, communications director for the nonprofit Wounded Warrior Project.

Plenzler suggested it is critical for veterans returning from service to find a new mission in life. "It's unrealistic to find these same experiences in the civilian world, but it is possible to find a sense of purpose and community — a sense of tribe."

James LaPorta, an Afghanistan war veteran who served as an infantryman in the Marine Corps, says he has been in therapy for 10 years because of his combat experiences, but he misses the community it builds.

"In many ways, the stress of combat is easier to deal with when you're in it, compared to the stress of everyday life. I think that's because in combat, you don't go through it as an individual, you have a tribe — a community with you," he said. "I miss the simplicity of war. The intimacy of it. Where the bonds forged in adversity are so strong, one can identify an individual by their silhouette during a night patrol."

American Veterans' Brown praised some of the VA's suicide prevention services but said there needs to be more attention paid to alternative approaches, such as the VA paying for tai chi.

"How are we ever going to get a handle on this problem if we are spending more than 90% of our resources on approaches that fail?" Brown said. "We need to stop doing the same actions and expecting fewer deaths."

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NATION

SpaceX launches supplies, nails its 50th landing

By MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — SpaceX successfully launched another load of station supplies for NASA late Friday night and nailed its 50th rocket landing.

The Falcon rocket blasted off with 4,300 pounds of equipment and experiments for the International Space Station. Just minutes later, the spent first-stage booster made a dramatic midnight landing back at Cape Canaveral, its return accompanied by sonic booms.

"And the Falcon has landed for the 50th time in SpaceX history!" SpaceX engineer Jessica Anderson announced amid cheers at Mission Control. "What an amazing live view all the way to touchdown."

The Dragon capsule, meanwhile, hurtled toward a Monday rendezvous with the space station.

It's the 20th station delivery for SpaceX, which has launched

nearly 100,000 pounds of goods to the orbiting outpost and returned nearly that much back to Earth since it began shipments in 2012. Northrop Grumman is NASA's other commercial shipper.

SpaceX founder and chief executive Elon Musk said it was the windiest conditions ever — 25 mph to 30 mph — for a booster landing at Cape Canaveral, but he wanted to push the envelope. The landing was the 50th successful touchdown of a SpaceX booster following liftoff, either on land or at sea.

"Envelope expanded," Musk tweeted following touchdown.

The company's first booster landing was in 2015, intended as a cost-saving, rocket-recycling move. Both the latest booster and Dragon capsule were recycled from previous flights.

Among the science experiments flying: an analysis of running shoe cushioning in weightlessness by Adidas, a water droplet study by Delta Faucet Co. striving for better showerhead



MALCOLM DENEMARK, FLORIDA TODAY/AP

A SpaceX Falcon rocket leaves a long trail after launch Friday, from Cape Canaveral, Fla. The two shorter streaks are from the first-stage booster firing on its return for a landing at Cape Canaveral.

water conservation, 3D models of heart and intestinal tissue, and 320 snippets of grape vines by Space Cargo Unlimited, the same Luxembourg startup that sent 12 bottles of red wine to the space station last November for a year

of high-altitude aging.

The Dragon also contained treats for the two Americans and one Russian at the space station: grapefruit, oranges, apples, tomatoes, Skittles, Hot Tamales and Reese's Pieces.

Sheriff asks for policy review over Bryant photo

By ALENE TCHEKMEDEVIAN
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has asked its civilian oversight panel to review the agency's policies in the aftermath of the scandal over deputies sharing photos of the helicopter crash that killed Kobe Bryant, his daughter and seven others.

Patti Giggans, the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission chairwoman, said Saturday morning that the panel responded "in the affirmative," saying that it would be happy to give input on department rules on taking photographs at crime and accident scenes.

The Times first reported last week that deputies were sharing crash photos.

The leadership of the sheriff's department, instead of following the normal investigative protocols, tried to keep a lid on the episode, according to interviews.

Sheriff Alex Villanueva later acknowledged that he ordered the deputies to delete the photos, a move that legal experts and some inside the department said could amount to destruction of evidence.

Hundreds attend service for NASA pioneer Katherine Johnson



KAITLIN MCKEOWN, THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT/AP

A portrait of NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson faces guests prior to a memorial service in her honor Saturday, at Hampton University Convocation Center in Hampton, Va.

Associated Press

HAMPTON, Va. — Three black astronauts joined hundreds of other mourners Saturday at a memorial service for pioneering African American mathematician and NASA researcher Katherine Johnson.

Johnson, who calculated rocket trajectories and Earth orbits for NASA's early space missions and was later portrayed in the 2016 film "Hidden Figures," about pioneering black female aerospace workers, died Feb. 24 at the age of 101.

More than 700 people turned out for Saturday's memorial service at the Hampton University Convocation Center.

"I think about the journey that she's going on now," astronaut Lerland Melvin said. "We can't calcu-

late the speed that she's traveling to get to heaven."

Melvin was joined by fellow astronauts Yvonne Cagle and Mae Jemison, the first black woman in space.

Johnson was remembered not just as a pioneering researcher, but as a faithful church leader and family matriarch.

"Grandma, because of you, our world will forever be unlimited," grandson Michael Moore said. "And because of you, I have no bounds."

Her family received an outpouring of tributes, some of which were read during the service.

Former President Barack Obama, who awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015, called her a "hero to millions" in a letter to her family.

First lady Melania Trump said she "took our nation to remarkable heights."

Clayton Turner, director of NASA's Langley Research Center, spoke at the service and presented Johnson's family with the flag that was flying over the center when she died.

U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., said during the ceremony that he knew Johnson and her second husband, James Johnson, for years before he ever read Margot Lee Shetterly's book "Hidden Figures" about Johnson and her colleagues' work as "human computers."

"There are few people who fought as good a fight, finished as difficult a course and all along kept the faith as Katherine Johnson," Scott said.

Chinese med student charged with research smuggling freed on bond

Associated Press

WORCESTER, Mass. — A medical student from China who U.S. authorities say tried to smuggle cancer research material out of the country has been freed on \$100,000 bond over the objections of federal prosecutors.

Zaosong Zheng, 30, walked out of U.S. District Court in Worcester, Mass., on Friday but will remain under GPS-mon-

tored house arrest, The Telegram & Gazette reported. His passport has also been confiscated.

Zheng was arrested in December at Logan International Airport in Boston with 21 vials of cancer cells in a suitcase he was taking to China, authorities said. Zheng stole the materials from his lab at Harvard-affiliated Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, authorities allege. The hospital has fired him.

He's charged with smuggling goods from the U.S. and making false statements.

The government has opposed his release. Prosecutors argue that he is a flight risk and may be working with the Chinese government, and have raised questions about the source of bail money posted by his wife.

Zheng has not been charged with conspiring with the Chinese government, and a federal judge Friday denied multiple re-

quests from prosecutors that he remain in jail.

Zheng and his wife declined to comment outside of court. One of his attorneys, David Duncan, said he does not believe his client did anything wrong.

Federal authorities have been aggressively going after Chinese researchers in the U.S., some of whom they say work on behalf of the Chinese government to steal the work of American academics.

NATION

Sanders faces challenging month against Biden

By DAN BALZ
The Washington Post

Joe Biden's stunning turnaround in the past week has put pressure on Bernie Sanders to blunt or reverse the former vice president's momentum. It won't take long to determine whether the senator is up to the challenge.

ANALYSIS After the events of the past week, the one-on-one competition between Biden and Sanders is just beginning but already the calendar says their battle is at an advanced and potentially decisive stage. Assumptions that Democrats are headed toward a genuinely contested convention might well be wrong.

Sanders has been here before. Four years ago, the senator from Vermont lost South Carolina to Hillary Clinton, lost the majority of states on Super Tuesday and fell behind in the delegate race. But he won in enough places on Super Tuesday to give him the incentive to keep going — and he had a plan for regaining momentum in Michigan that included early television ads and a focus on trade in a state sensitive to the issue.

The pre-primary polls showed Clinton with a substantial lead, but on primary night, Sanders won. The margin was narrow — less than two percentage points — but the value of the upset was enormous. The victory revived his campaign, and he took his fight all the way to the convention in Philadelphia, to the dismay of Clinton forces.

That history makes Michigan the most crucial of the six states with contests Tuesday, but Sanders could struggle to repeat his performance of four years ago. He won't be able to sneak up on Biden as he did with Clinton.

Biden has done well with some of the kinds of Michigan voters Sanders relied on for success

in 2016, whether those in small towns and rural areas or those without college degrees. Sanders still has strength in areas with colleges and universities, but by his own acknowledgment, he is not getting the turnout from young voters that he needs. Meanwhile in Michigan districts with large concentrations of African Americans, Sanders lost big in 2016, and Biden has been winning black voters by huge margins this year.

Sanders has other potential problems Tuesday. Three of the six states with contests held caucuses four years ago; Sanders got 78 percent of the vote in Idaho, 73 percent in Washington and 64 percent in North Dakota. He netted 68 delegates in those three contests. This year Washington and Idaho have shifted to primaries. Even if he wins all three again, and polling in Washington shows a close race, Sanders won't get nearly as many delegates.

Overall, between now and April 7, Sanders and Biden will compete in 17 states. Four years ago, Clinton won nine of 17 and Sanders won eight, six of them caucuses. Of the 11 that were primaries, Clinton lost only Michigan and Wisconsin. From those 17 states, she emerged with about 100 more delegates than Sanders.

Those numbers set the stage for what is about to unfold in the Democratic campaign, with the prospect that Sanders could come out of the contests between now and the Wisconsin primary farther behind Biden in delegates and with no realistic path to make up the difference.

Sanders faces a big defeat Tuesday in Mississippi, a replication of 2016. He was competitive with Clinton in Missouri, but this year he has to break Biden's momentum to avoid losing ground there. The following week, he can expect a big loss in Florida: Four years ago, Clinton beat him by a



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Democratic presidential candidate, former Vice President Joe Biden greets the crowd during a campaign rally Saturday in Kansas City, Mo.

margin of 30 points. His praise for Fidel Castro's literacy program adds to his problems there this year.

A week after that, on March 24, there is a stand-alone primary in Georgia. Clinton crushed Sanders there in 2016, winning more than twice as many delegates. Because there is no other event that day, a big Biden victory will feed a story line of the former vice president's strength among the party's most loyal constituency. Five days later, there will be the Puerto Rico primary, which Sanders lost against Clinton.

On April 4, Sanders can look forward to some relief. Four states have contests that Saturday, and three of them will be caucuses, with Louisiana holding a primary. But the four have only 107 pledged delegates at stake, hardly enough to change things

significantly.

The one potential bright spot for Sanders comes on April 7 in Wisconsin. Four years ago, he won the Badger State by double digits. A loss in Wisconsin this year would be a huge setback. But even a victory of near-double digits would almost certainly still leave Sanders behind Biden in delegates. After Wisconsin, Sanders will be looking at primaries in several states that don't allow independents — generally a Sanders constituency — to vote.

No one anticipated that the Democratic race would turn as quickly as it did. No one figured that Biden would sweep as many states on Super Tuesday and grab a narrow lead in delegates. No one assumed the field would consolidate so quickly and decisively around Biden. Biden could stumble badly in the March 15 debate

in Arizona or do something else to give supporters pause.

Realistically, however, it is Sanders who has potential soul-searching ahead. Four years ago, he resisted calls to endorse Clinton immediately after she won the June primary in California. He took his campaign into the convention hall in Philadelphia and pressed his demands on the Clinton campaign. For Clinton, it was an annoyance, but no one assumed it would be costly in the general election.

By early April, Democrats should know definitively whether Biden will be their nominee or whether Sanders still has a chance of winning. If Sanders does not have a chance of winning, will he take his candidacy all the way to Democratic convention again or choose a different path than he did in 2016?

Tens of thousands of political ads on Facebook lack key details

By TONY ROMM
AND ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER
The Washington Post

The Facebook ad purchased by a page called "Angry Buckeyes" in December seemed ordinary at first: It cited a news article that claimed President Donald Trump's tariffs on China could cost Americans.

But the ad actually belonged to an apparent cluster of pages that paid to promote similar messages, didn't fully disclose their backers, and sought to influence voters in key battleground states — deficiencies that have cast fresh doubt on Facebook's efforts to protect users from manipulation.

The discovery is one of several weaknesses uncovered by experts at New York University's Tandon School of Engineering, who performed a security audit of Facebook's online ad archive between

May 2018 and June 2019. Their conclusions, spelled out in a new paper shared with The Washington Post, point to myriad opportunities malicious actors may have had to exploit the platform's powerful targeting tools while hiding their tracks, misleading users and evading Facebook's enforcement.

In the years after Russian agents weaponized the social-networking platform as part of their sweeping efforts to sway the 2016 presidential election, Facebook developed verification measures designed to prevent foreign actors from purchasing political ads. It also undertook transparency initiatives that placed paid posts in a public archive. But researchers Laura Edelson, Tobias Lauringer and Damon McCoy found a series of defects that still could enable a malicious advertiser to avoid accurate disclosure of their political

ads," they wrote.

More than 86,000 Facebook pages ran at least one political ad that was not properly disclosed, according to the report. Facebook later caught and included these ads in its archive, but it remains unclear whether the company ever fully vetted nearly 80 percent of the pages that paid to promote their messages in the first place.

Roughly 20,000 ads also had been purchased by "likely inauthentic communities," according to the report, which they defined as clusters of pages that appear to be linked because they promoted the same or similar messages. That included businesses looking to advance their interests without clear fingerprints, for example, and more opaque entities that hawked potentially fraudulent insurance products. These ads

touched on political themes, resulting in their being included in Facebook's archive.

Facebook said that in recent months it had remedied the deficiencies that researchers identified in their study. The company, for example, has sought to require more information about Facebook pages — who is behind them and who is paying for their ads.

"Our authorization and transparency measures have meaningfully changed since this research was conducted," spokesman Joe Osborne said in a statement. "We offer more transparency into political and issue advertising than TV, radio or any other digital ad platform."

But Edelson, one of the authors of the NYU study, said some concerns persist — including fears that Facebook isn't aggressively enforcing its own rules.

"Facebook's ad platform and their transparency mechanisms were simply not built with security in mind," Edelson said.

The researchers' findings could seed further doubt among regulators and the public about Facebook's preparedness for the 2020 presidential election. In 2016, Russian agents used narrowly targeted political ads to bait unsuspecting users into joining seemingly innocuous pages and groups, where they were then bombed with divisive and false posts, photos and videos.

In recent years, Facebook has sought to toughen its defenses. It hired more workers to review its site and put in place new policies to stamp out what it labels "coordinated, inauthentic behavior," resulting in the removals of accounts and other content linked to Russia and malicious actors.

NATION

Road to Bloody Sunday started with Marion rally

By GARY FIELDS
Associated Press

MARION, Ala. — Della Simpson Maynor remembers the mounted police officer cracking her elbow with a baton. She recalls the panicked marchers unable to escape the onslaught, and the scuffle between officers and a young church deacon who was trying to protect his mother and grandfather. Most of all, she remembers the gunshot.

Two weeks before Bloody Sunday — the clash in Selma on March 7, 1965, that helped propel passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 — there was a march in this small town 30 miles away.

What happened in Marion is now a less-familiar episode in the civil rights movement — a footnote in the textbooks. But the blood spilled here would send hundreds of people from Marion and the surrounding county to Selma at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where history was made.

"Starting the story in Selma is like reading a book by starting in the middle and not going back to the beginning so you can get the total picture of what actually happened in 1965," said Perry County Commissioner Alfred Turner Jr. "Without the events occurring in Marion, there's no way you would have gotten the same results or the optics of Bloody Sunday."

The protest in Marion was sparked by the arrest of a minister who was leading efforts to register black people to vote. It ended with the fatal shooting of a 26-year-old black church deacon, Jimmie Lee Jackson, by a state trooper.

As the 55th anniversary of Bloody Sunday approached, people here say that they want the full story remembered.

The road to Marion and eventually to Selma began at the White House months before.

The Rev. Martin Luther King, his lieutenant Andrew Young and other activists sat down with President Lyndon Johnson after passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Johnson "told Dr. King, 'I know you need voting rights. I wish I could do it, but I just don't have the power,'" Young recalled, adding that Johnson seemed depressed.

When they left, King said, "We've got to figure out how to get the president some power," according to Young, who would go on to become a congressman, Atlanta mayor and U.N. ambassador. "I said, 'That Nobel Prize you won didn't come with an army.'"

King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference threw its support behind the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and local groups that had been focusing on voter registration in Alabama, where they were holding protests, sit-ins and boycotts.

The Rev. James Orange of the SCLC organized protests in Marion and Perry County, and hundreds of people were regularly arrested and jailed. When students began skipping school to join the marches, authorities ar-



AP photos

Jamida Orange looks around the Perry County Jail cell in Marion, Ala., where her father, the Rev. James Orange, a project coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was housed in 1965 after his arrest while organizing a voter registration drive.



The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and associates lead a procession behind the casket of Jimmie Lee Jackson in Marion, Ala., in 1965.

rested Orange on Feb. 18, 1965, for contributing to the delinquency of minors.

Former Perry County Circuit Clerk Mary Moore, a second-grader at the time, said the arrest was hypocritical on the part of the white authorities, noting that black students back then often missed school because farmers needed them to pick cotton.

Rumors circulated that Orange would be lynched behind bars. That was by no means a far-fetched fear.

"Black folks in jail ended up dead. That's the way it was then," said 83-year-old Elijah Rollins, then owner of one of the town's funeral homes. "It was just tradition."

Townpeople planned a night protest march from Zion Methodist Church to the jail on the next block. State and local police were waiting for them outside, where the streetlight was either shot out or turned off. With darkness came chaos.

Rollins had skipped the church meeting but heard the commotion, and when he went outside, "a lot of people were getting the hell beat out of them."

Maynor, then 14, watched as a pastor started off the protest by kneeling to pray, as was cus-

tomary. Police officers told him to get up and clubbed him when he didn't, she said. "When I saw that, I was terrified," she recalled. Seconds later, she was hit as she raised her arm to protect her head. An officer on horseback "was whaling down on me."

"They didn't know what your age was. They didn't care. They swung at everybody," she said.

Somewhere in the melee, Cager Lee, 82, and his daughter, Viola Jackson, were attacked by police. Lee's grandson, Jimmie Lee Jackson, came to help them and grappled with officers inside a local hangout, Macks Cafe.

"A few minutes later, you heard the gunshot," Maynor said.

Jackson had a stomach wound and was taken to the black hospital in Selma, where he died eight days later. Rollins, who heard him screaming in pain two days before, picked up the body.

SCLC and local leaders began talking almost immediately about taking his body from Marion to Alabama's capital, Montgomery, but that idea was abandoned.

They decided to lay Jackson to rest at a Marion-area cemetery at a funeral attended by King himself, and later march to the capital from Selma, a more logical staging point.



Demonstrators walk to the courthouse behind the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Montgomery, Ala., on March 17, 1965.

"We will take this problem to Montgomery and leave it on Wallace's doorstep," King told Young, referring to Alabama's arch-segregationist governor, George Wallace.

Plans were made for the 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery, but on the day chosen, King was back home in Atlanta, and the federal observers who normally shadowed him and presumably would have served as a deterrent against violence weren't there when hundreds of marchers with backpacks gathered at the bridge.

State troopers and local police were waiting for them and attacked with clubs and tear gas. A terrified Terrance Chestnut, 6 at the time, was there with his father, Selma civil rights attorney J.L. Chestnut Jr.

"I saw a cop hit a guy across the jaw with a billy club. I could hear the crack," he said. "It was a really bad scene, something I don't care to remember but something I can't erase from my mind."

The TV footage and other images from that day shocked the country and helped lead to the landmark federal law protecting African Americans' right to vote.

The Marion marchers would not recognize the community

leadership now.

The state trooper who shot Jackson, James Bonard Fowler, was prosecuted decades later by Perry County's first black district attorney. Fowler pleaded guilty in 2010 to manslaughter and served five months in jail. The mayor, police chief, sheriff and numerous other public officials in Marion and Perry County also are African American.

A marble monument to the civil rights movement has been erected in front of Zion Methodist with the names of the people who participated in those protests. The county jail where Orange was held is closed, but there are plans to turn it into a museum. On the courthouse square is another monument, telling Jackson's story and adding Marion to the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. It was put up in 2015.

In a letter to the Department of Interior supporting Marion's inclusion, Rep. Terri Sewell of Alabama cited the role Jackson's death played in the Selma march, saying that nearly 300 of the more than 500 people who participated on Bloody Sunday were from Marion.

"They paved the way and gave the push to change the world," said Marion Mayor Dexter Hinton.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Parents sue when teens' bodies switched

FL FORT LAUDERDALE, — The parents of two teenagers killed in a car crash are suing the Florida Highway Patrol and others, claiming the bodies of their daughters were misidentified and switched.

The lawsuits follow a July 29 crash in the Pensacola area involving four friends. Two of them were killed: Delegha "Leigha" Gibson, 18, and Samara Cooke, 15.

Despite their age difference and different physical characteristics, according to the lawsuits their identities were switched. One was also an organ donor and the other was not, leading to a mix-up in harvesting organs, according to the lawsuits.

According to the lawsuits, the local medical examiner released the wrong bodies to the wrong funeral homes, which embalmed the wrong bodies without authorization.

Bells on Leaning Tower replica to get new tunes

IL NILES — Bells at the top of a half-scale replica of Italy's famed Leaning Tower of Pisa in suburban Chicago will play some new tunes after undergoing renovations.

The tower in Niles, built in 1934 as part of a park for the employees of businessman Robert Ilg's company, was recently named to the National Register of Historic places.

Kim Schafer, founder of Community Bell Advocates, said she arranged a collection of "familiar tunes" for the seven bells at the top of the Niles landmark to play, the Chicago Tribune reported. Schafer said she also created original chime patterns that will sound at each quarter hour.

Swiss gruyere named world's best cheese

WI MADISON — A Gruyere named the world's best cheese, chosen from a record number of entrants from 26 nations in the World Championship Cheese Contest in Wisconsin.

The cheese from Bern, Switzerland, made its maker, Michael Spycher of Mountain Dairy Fritzenried, a two-time winner. Spycher also won in 2008.

The contest is the largest technical cheese, butter and yogurt competition in the world and was held in Madison with a record 3,667 entries.

82-year-old bank robber convicted again

AZ PHOENIX — An 82-year-old man who spent most of his adult life in prison for robbing banks was convicted again for carrying out an armed heist at an Arizona credit union as he struggled to adjust to life outside prison.

Robert Francis Krebs faced a maximum 25 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of armed bank robbery. The January 2019 holdup in Tucson came



AMIEE DILGER, THE (WILKES-BARRE, PA.) TIMES LEADER/AP

Seussical senator

U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., wearing a robe for pajama day, reads "The Foot Book" to Susan Augello Kuhls' first grade class at Kistler Elementary School in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., as part of their celebration of Dr. Seuss.

about seven months after he was released from prison.

Krebs served more than 30 years for a 1981 bank robbery in Florida and was sentenced to three years in prison after a 1966 conviction in Chicago for embezzling \$72,000 from a bank where he worked as a teller.

He also served an additional 17 years for theft and armed robbery convictions from Arizona dating to 1980.

Raptor Center rescues brain-damaged eagles

AK JUNEAU — A Juneau bird rescue organization is caring for two eagles found with neurological damage.

Alaska Department of Transportation workers found the eagles in the Lemon Creek area between downtown Juneau and the Mendenhall Valley and called the Juneau Raptor Center, the Juneau Empire reported.

Workers found a dead eagle with the two injured eagles. The cause of injury to surviving eagles is not known but they could have suffered concussions or eaten toxins, said raptor center general manager Kathy Benner.

THE CENSUS

\$3.5M

at the M&R supermarket, which Juan managed and his son worked at, between October 2015 and September 2018. Prosecutors cited the high volume of food stamp redemptions at the store and said an undercover agent made at least 11 "purchases" in which Perdomo or his son exchanged cash for food stamp benefits.

The approximate amount of cash that a father and son in Newark, N.J., illegally received in exchange for food stamp benefits. Juan Perdomo and his adult son, Jose, pleaded guilty to conducting the fraud scheme

Tape dispenser, shower rod used to kill man

NJ MANCHESTER — A woman fatally beat her male roommate with a tape dispenser, a shower rod and other items during a dispute inside their southern New Jersey home last month, authorities said.

Mary Carbone, 56, was charged with murder and four weapons offenses, according to the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office.

The charges stem from the death of Frank Stochel, who was found Feb. 24 lying on the floor of his Manchester home.

Prosecutors said the investigation determined that Carbone used several household items to commit the murder, noting that a

tape dispenser and a shower rod were recovered at the scene.

Bear that returned after relocation has 3 cubs

NH CONCORD — A female bear who journeyed thousands of miles to return home after being saved and relocated by Gov. Chris Sununu is preparing to emerge from her den with three new cubs.

Sunuun joined Fish and Game officials to check on "Mink," who was set to be euthanized along with three of her offspring in 2017 after repeated problems with them feeding from trash and bird feeders culminated with two bears entering a home in Hanover. Sununu instead ordered

them to be moved to far northern New Hampshire, but by last spring, Mink had found her way back to her preferred home near Dartmouth College.

The bear currently is hibernating in a den in the same area.

State Senate passes porn label measure

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A slimmed-down version of a measure to require warning labels on pornography in Utah passed the state Senate.

The proposal would mandate a one-sentence warning label for online or print material deemed legally obscene, the Salt Lake Tribune reported. A relatively small slice of porn is considered obscene, but that hardcore material has fewer constitutional protections.

The label would say "exposing minors to obscene material may damage or negatively impact minors."

The porn industry has objected to the plan, saying it could have constitutional problems and open the floodgates for lawsuits.

From wire reports

WORLD

Mexican women will 'disappear' to protest abuse

By MARIA VERZA
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Don't go out. Don't shop. Don't go to school. Don't consume. The urging from women's activists is clear, but it remains unclear whether Mexico will really go a day without women on Monday.

After a year of increasingly heated and frequent protests over gender violence in Mexico, the call for women to strike has captured growing interest in recent weeks. It has also generated an intense debate about whether becoming "invisible" for a day will be a political statement, a diluted effort because some bosses have authorized paid time off or an ineffective way to push to change behavior.

The discussion has gone be-

yond the usual circles of feminist collectives, public figures and social networks to become a conversation topic in the streets of Mexico, even for those who don't feel empowered to skip work.

Marta Patricia Ramirez, a housewife, says the national call to strike has inspired her to take action in her own neighborhood. She has organized a Monday event with neighbors to discuss harassment and abuse because one of them is "having a bad time."

Jessica Solis, a dentist, won't open her office. Marta Perez told her husband that she won't lift a single plate Monday and that their 18-year-old daughter will stay off social media.

A Facebook group called "A Day Without Women" has more than 320,000 Mexican members



FERNANDO LLANG/AP

A city employee installs a piece of art as part of an exhibit marking International Women's Day in Mexico City, on Thursday. After a year of numerous protests against gender violence in Mexico, women are calling for a general strike on Monday.

who debate and inform each other about the possible consequences of not going to the office, hospital or school that day.

A message to the group says a woman staying indoors Monday is meant to "simulate" her death — to show those close to her what would happen if she were to suddenly disappear or die at the hands of a man, like the thousands who are killed each year in Mexico.

Government data say 3,825

women met violent deaths last year, 7% more than in 2018. That works out to about 10 women slain each day in Mexico, making it one of the most dangerous countries in the world for females. Thousands more have gone missing without a trace in recent years.

"We don't want more simulation, we want action," said Maria de la Luz Estrada, coordinator of the National Citizen's Observatory of Femicide.

Estrada expects more than

20,000 women to march against the violence in Mexico City on Sunday, which is International Women's Day, with smaller marches and demonstrations throughout the country. She also endorses the strike.

Not all women support the action.

"I'm not interested in the strike, it won't change anything. Men haven't changed in years," said Maria Isabel Garcia, who works as a cleaner.

Fire burns down Greek refugee hub amid strain

By DEMETRIS NELLAS
Associated Press

ATHENS — A fire broke out at a refugee center on the Greek island of Lesbos, Greece's fire-fighting service said Sunday, causing considerable damage to a warehouse but no injuries.

It was the second fire at an installation built for migrants after a reception center was burned down by unknown perpetrators last Monday. The warehouse, which contained furniture and electrical appliances, was completely destroyed, a firefighting spokesman told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, because an investigation into the fire is ongoing.

The blaze at the refugee center came amid a tense standoff between Turkey and the European Union over who is responsible for the millions of migrants and refugees on Turkish territory and the thousands who have massed recently at the Greek border.

Turkey is accusing Greece of mistreating the migrants. Many migrants have reported cross-border beatings by Greek authorities and summarily forced back into Turkey.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will travel to Brussels on Monday to talk with top EU officials about a 2016 Turkey-EU agreement on containing the refugee flow.



SANA/AP

A fuel tanker collided with two passenger buses and several other cars on the Damascus-Homs road near the capital Damascus, killing 32 people, Syria's official news agency said.

Fuel truck barrels into buses on Syrian road

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — At least 26 Iraqis were among those killed in a Syrian highway accident last week, in which a fuel truck collided with passenger buses and other cars, Iraqi's foreign ministry spokesman said Sunday.

Ahmad al-Sahhaf said at least 16 Iraqis were also injured in what he described as a "regretful" traffic accident and not a militant attack. He said the bodies will be transported to Iraq.

Syrian state media quoted local officials saying at least 32 were killed in the accident and 77 were

injured.

Iraqi politicians called for an investigation, saying the passengers were Shiite pilgrims on their way to visit shrines in Damascus, which has been largely protected from the ongoing war. But such convoys have previously come under attack from armed groups.

Syria's Interior Minister Mohammed Khaled Rahmoun, who visited the area outside the capital of Damascus late Saturday, told reporters faulty brakes apparently caused the driver to lose control of the fuel truck. He said at least 15 other vehicles were damaged.

Saudis' arrest of 2 princes seen as warning to royals

By AYA BATRAWY
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Two senior princes in Saudi Arabia are under arrest for not supporting Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has consolidated control of all major levers of power with the support of his father, King Salman, two people close to the royal family said Saturday.

The arrests on Friday of the king's younger and beloved brother, Prince Ahmed bin Abdelaziz, and the king's nephew and former counterterrorism czar, Prince Mohammed bin

Nayef, came after an accumulation of behavior that was provocative to leadership, one person in Saudi Arabia with knowledge of the arrests said.

Both princes had served previously in the post of interior minister, overseeing security and surveillance inside the kingdom. The move came as a surprise, given that Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, 60, was widely known to be under close surveillance since he was shunted out of the line of succession by the king's son in mid-2017, a person close to the royal court said.

The arrest of Prince Ahmed, 78, was also unexpected since he

is the king's full younger brother and also a senior member of the ruling Al Saud family.

Prince Ahmed, however, has long held unfavorable views of the 34-year-old crown prince and was one of just a few senior princes to abstain from pledging allegiance to him when the young royal sidelined more senior princes to become first in line to the throne.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the arrests, quoting unidentified sources allied with the royal court as saying the princes were plotting a palace coup that would halt the rise of the crown prince. The Journal has since reported that the sweep broad-

ened to include dozens of Interior Ministry officials, senior army officers and others suspected of supporting a coup attempt.

The two people who talked to The Associated Press declined to characterize actions by the two princes as a coup attempt. They agreed to discuss the highly sensitive matter related to security only if granted anonymity.

One added that the arrests were a message to all those in the royal family feeling disenfranchised to stop grumbling and toe the line, saying that if Prince Ahmed can be arrested, any prince can and will be.

WORLD

Protesters target Moscow over downed jet

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — The families of people killed when a missile shot down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine in 2014 set out 298 white chairs outside the Russian embassy on Sunday in a silent protest against Moscow's lack of cooperation in the investigation into the downing of the passenger jet.

Each chair represented one of the victims who died when a Buk missile fired from territory held by pro-Russia separatist rebels shot down the Amsterdam-to-Kuala Lumpur flight on July 17, 2014, killing everybody on board. The families also held two minutes of silence on Sunday.

The protest came on the eve of the start of a Dutch trial for three Russians and a Ukrainian charged with murders for their alleged roles in the missile strike.

Russia denies involvement and has dismissed the international investigation that led to the four suspects being charged as being prejudiced against Moscow.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova accused investigators of presuming Russia's guilt before the court hearing opens Monday and launching "media campaign" to support the case and whitewash alleged gaps in the evidence.

Neither Russia nor Ukraine ex-

tradites its citizens. Russia continued to deny involvement, even after prosecutors alleged that the Buk missile system which destroyed the passenger plane was transported into Ukraine from the Russian 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade's base in Kursk and the launching system was then returned to Russia.

The Joint Investigation Team last year named four suspects: Russians Igor Girkin, Sergey Dubinskiy and Oleg Pulatov as well

as Ukrainian Leonid Kharchenko. None of them is expected to attend the start of the trial Monday in a courtroom near Schiphol, the Amsterdam airport from which the doomed flight took off.

The team examined the wreckage and body parts, questioned witnesses and experts, studied radar and satellite images and analyzed data and intercepted communications before indicting the four suspects.



KELVIN CHAN/AP

Artists Georgina Rowlands, left and Anna Hart pose for a photo with their faces painted on Feb. 17.

Artists paint faces for surveillance awareness

By KELVIN CHAN
Associated Press

LONDON — As night falls in London, Georgina Rowlands and Anna Hart start applying makeup. Instead of lipstick and eyeliner, they're covering their faces with geometric shapes.

Rowlands has long narrow blue triangles and thin white rectangles criss-crossing her face. Hart has a collection of red, orange and white angular shapes on hers.

They're two of the four found-

ers of the Dazzle Club, a group of artists set up last year to provoke discussion about the growing use of facial recognition technology.

The group holds monthly silent walks through different parts of London to raise awareness about the technology, which they say is being used for "rampant surveillance." Other concerns include its lack of regulation, inaccuracy and how it affects public spaces.

Britain has long been used to surveillance cameras in pub-

lic spaces to counter security threats, and London is ranked as having one of the world's highest concentrations of closed-circuit television cameras.

But that acceptance is being tested as authorities and corporations increasingly seek to deploy a new generation of cameras with facial recognition technology while activists, lawmakers and independent experts raise concerns about mass surveillance, privacy, and accuracy.

Stripes

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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FACES

Oprah delivers kind interview with author of 'American Dirt'

By RON CHARLES
The Washington Post

In the end, Oprah could not be stopped. And we should be grateful that she persisted.

On Feb. 6, the legendary talk-show host posted two one-hour episodes focused on Jeanine Cummins' controversial novel, "American Dirt," about a Mexican mother and her son fleeing from a murderous drug lord. Before its January publication, the book had been heralded as *the* story about the immigrant experience and was extravagantly praised by Stephen King, Sandra Cisneros and Ann Patchett.

But dozens of other writers and critics said "American Dirt" promoted racist stereotypes and demonstrated the publishing industry's ignorance of the Latinx experience. They had petitioned Oprah to cancel the show. Oprah refused, claiming the novel had moved her and that she would use it to inspire a deep discussion about immigration.

She did — in a remarkably well-designed two-part presentation on Apple TV Plus. The conversation that Oprah conducted in Tucson, Ariz., is civil, smart, empathetic and illuminating — a stirring reminder of what's still possible even in our contentious society.

Oprah started by acknowledging critics that the novel and she have received. But she noted, "If one author, one artist is silenced, we're all in danger of the same. I believe that we can do this without having to cancel, to dismiss or to silence anyone."

Cummins, looking crushed and joyless, came onstage. Her countrywide book tour had been canceled in late January over concerns for her safety. "I know actually what it feels like to be attacked in the public eye," Oprah said. "It's not easy, and it's hurtful, and it's stressful." But then she asked Cummins about the complaints that have been lodged against her, the book and the way it was marketed. Cummins said, "I never meant to suggest that people haven't already written their migrant stories."

Oprah shifted expertly from interrogator to fan, saying, "One of your intentions was to be a bridge, and I think actually you have succeeded because there's a big swell of people ... who love the book and were opened up by it." The novel has gone on to tremendous popularity, selling 325,000 copies.

During the second hour, Oprah spoke with Luz Maria Garcin, a professor who studies immigration and trauma.

Oprah also spoke with several women who told death-defying stories of crossing into the United States. The abuse the women suffered and the risks they took left the audience visibly shaken.



"Onward"
Disney-Pixar photos

Baddy issues

Pixar's animated pattern of missing parents continues with 'Onward.' Here are 7 emotionally powerful examples

By MICHAEL CAVNA
The Washington Post

In Pixar's new film "Onward," a pair of teen brothers seek to reconnect with their deceased dad — the kind of family-nested quest that has spawned some of the studio's most moving moments across a quarter-century.

"There are many ways into the subject of loss," says "Onward" producer Kori Rae, noting that Pixar characters are sometimes preoccupied with universal questions: "Who are our parents? Who are we? What is the meaning of loss?"

Although Pixar does not lean on parental death as storytelling device to

the degree that classic animated Disney films do ("Bambi" and "Cinderella" lead a long list), the studio has often disappeared a mom or dad — either temporarily or permanently — to further the narrative.

Sometimes, such as in the emotionally affecting "Up," the dynamics of that absence are deployed more subtly; other times, such as in "Finding Dory," the disappearance is crucial to driving an entire narrative.

Here are the seven most dramatic times that Pixar has employed an absent or disappearing parent to pull on our heartstrings:

1. 'Up'

During their shared high-flying adventure, Carl Fredrickson becomes a grandfather-like figure to Russell the young Wilderness Explorer, who is a child of divorce. The poignancy is well-earned by the end of "Up," when it is the supportive Carl — and not the boy's father — who is seen onstage at the ceremony where Russell gets his "Assisting the Elderly" badge.

6. 'The Incredibles'

When bored family man Mr. Incredibly disappears on an island while moonlighting as a superhero, his wife Elastigirl and two of their stay-at-home children, Dash and Violet, must leap into action to rescue the spanked dad. Although the separation is brief, it helps propel the plot and heighten the sense of family bonds.

5. 'Onward'

Teenage Ian and elder elf

brother Barley go on a supernatural trek to spend a day with their long-dead father — much of it with only the mystical bottom half of their dad, since he's often represented by just a pair of khaki pants. Call it "The Brotherhood of the Traveling Pants" (anything but "Two and a Half Men"). For much of the movie, on an emotional level, even half a dad is better than none.

4. 'The Good Dinosaur'

In a setup that has a strong "Lion King" vibe, Arlo, the runt of the prehistoric family, sets off on a journey after his father Henry is killed trying to save him in a ravine during a flash flood. Once again, parental death = personal quest.

3. 'Finding Dory'

This sequel echoes aspects of the original (see below) as Dory, the forgetful blue tang, is spirited away on an oceanic adventure by flashbacks to Morro Bay, Calif., where she was sep-

arated from her parents as a child in an unfortunate game of hide-and-seek. Dory's memories of those moments are especially affecting.

2. 'Brave'

Merida, the would-be Scottish princess, bristles against family expectation, but the magic she resorts to turns her mother, Queen Elinor, into a bear — with the threat of the change becoming permanent. (Much like "Onward" a parent is present but in supernaturally altered form.) The adventure turns on the daughter's self-discovery in the face of such loss.

1. 'Finding Nemo'

Pixar's first aquatic quest (pictured in upper left) has two types of parental loss. The early death of a clownfish's mother makes father Marlin even more protective of son Nemo — a dynamic that leads to their separation. The desperate drive to reunite provides the film's rolling emotional undertow.

Publisher cancels Woody Allen memoir

Woody Allen's publisher has decided to cancel the planned release of his memoir "Apropos of Nothing."

The announcement March 6 by Hachette Book Group followed days of criticism focused on allegations that Allen sexually abused his daughter Dylan Farrow. On Feb. 5, dozens of Hachette employees staged a walkout.

"The decision to cancel Mr. Allen's book was a difficult one. At HBG, we take our relationships with authors very seriously, and do not cancel books lightly," the publisher announced.

"We have published and will continue to publish many challenging books. As publishers, we make sure every day in our work that different voices and conflicting points of views can be heard."

Allen's book was scheduled to come out next month.

The book had been rumored for years and was thought unpublishable in the #MeToo era, but the publishing company quietly acquired it a year ago.

Soon after the announcement, Dylan Farrow, who has accused her father of sexually molesting her when she was a child, published a statement calling the upcoming memoir "deeply unsettling" and claiming it wasn't fact checked.

The next day, her journalist brother Ronan Farrow threatened to cut ties with Hachette, whose Little, Brown imprint published his 2019 bestselling book "Catch and Kill."

In that book, Farrow writes about the challenges he faced reporting on sexual assault allegations against the movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

Pop star Katy Perry reveals pregnancy

Katy Perry has revealed she's pregnant in a very show business way.

The 35-year-old pop star showed off her growing baby bump at the end of the video for her latest song, "Never Worn White."

On Instagram, Perry said her pregnancy is "probably the longest secret" she has "ever had to keep." The news was confirmed March 5 by Perry's label, Capitol Music Group.

The baby will be Perry's first, and the second for her fiancé, Orlando Bloom, who has a 9-year-old son, Flynn, with ex-wife Miranda Kerr.

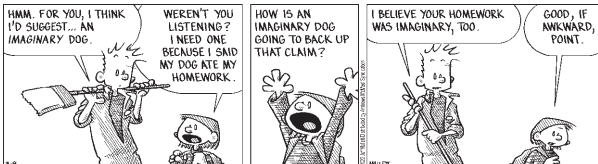
Perry joked that she was relieved to share the news. "So glad I don't have to suck it in anymore," she wrote on Twitter. "Or carry around a big purse."

Other news

■ Taylor Swift is donating \$1 million to tornado relief efforts in Middle Tennessee, where deadly storms ravaged counties last week, including in Nashville. In an Instagram post March 5, Swift said "Nashville is my home."

From wire services

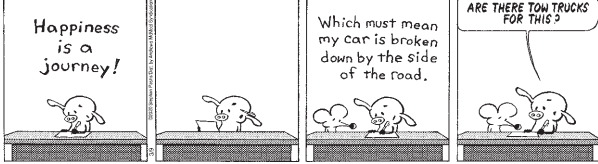
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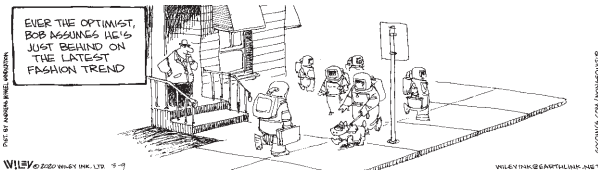
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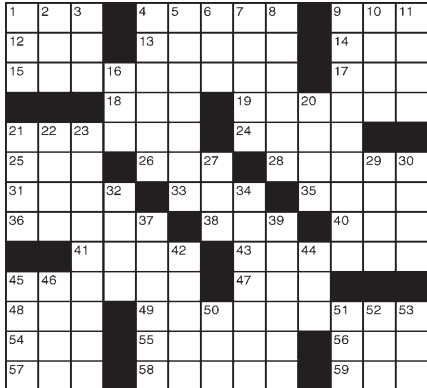
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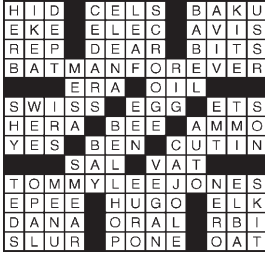
ACROSS

- 1 Access Lucy
- 4 Dickens' Heep
- 9 ER workers
- 12 Request
- 13 1990s treaty acronym
- 14 Kanga's kid
- 15 Media packets
- 17 UFO crew
- 18 Bee follower
- 19 Minnesota lake
- 21 Exhaled audibly
- 24 Animation frames
- 25 Brock of baseball
- 26 Little louse
- 28 Snooped (around)
- 31 Dumbstruck
- 33 Calendar abbr.
- 35 Popular Asian cuisine
- 36 No-frills
- 38 Army rank (Abbr.)
- 40 Globe
- 41 Poet Teasdale
- 43 Banister posts
- 45 Camilla Parker —
- 47 Historic period
- 48 Rock's Brian
- 49 Challenge for Deep Blue
- 54 California's Big —
- 55 "Siddhartha" author
- 56 In favor of

DOWN

- 57 Chiding sound
- 58 School paper
- 59 Menlo Park monogram
- 1 Thick chunk
- 22 Corn Belt state
- 23 Conjecture
- 27 Male cat
- 29 — Grey tea
- 30 Firsties
- 32 Old radio part
- 34 Actress Redgrave
- 37 Nativity display
- 39 Football shirt
- 42 Campfire leftovers
- 44 Witty one
- 45 Optimum
- 46 Burden
- 50 Curved letter
- 51 Sternward
- 52 Extinct New Zealand bird
- 53 Before

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-9

CRYPTOQUIP

NDHG MEDJD BCQQBD GCTA,
SHSW HZCVHBA HZT KJDAEBW
ANJXOQDT NBHZQA TMDBB:

QED VXOZQHCZ XK WXOQE.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE LAID UP IN A SCANDINAVIAN HOSPITAL, YOU MIGHT RECEIVE CARE FROM A REGISTERED NORSE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals Y

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Lost interaction: A side effect that stings

By CHARLES McGRATH

Special to The Washington Post

Empty shopping malls, the parking lots bare. Movie theaters, empty — dust gathering on the seats, the popcorn in the popper going hard and stale. Empty churches, empty restaurants, empty grocery stores. Empty airports, empty bus stations. Subway trains run, to keep the rails from rusting, but there are no passengers. They rumble past platforms where no one is waiting. Post offices: closed, and the mailman won't be coming, either. The baseball stadium isn't empty, exactly: The team is playing, but the only sound is the ball hitting the catcher's mitt or connecting with the bat. No one is in the stands.

Those could be the opening shots of a pretty good horror movie. In fact, it's a gloomy but not completely unreasonable picture of what life could be like a few weeks from now if the coronavirus spreads unchecked and we abandon all our public spaces — or, worse, the authorities decide the only solution is to close them. It's already happening elsewhere. In Italy, the government ordered all sports grounds to take place without fans. The opera house in Venice recently put on a concert you could "attend" only online. (On Sunday, Italy announced a quarantine for its northern regions, restricting the movements of 16 million people, The Associated Press reported.) The London Book Fair, a major publishing event, has been called off. Airlines are canceling flights, and who of sound mind would board a cruise ship right now? Even in the United States, where the virus is only just getting started, some stores are out of things like toilet paper and paper towels: Good luck finding a bottle of Purell.

The Japanese, who have already closed Tokyo Disneyland, are wringing their hands — well-scrubbed, of course, for at least 20 seconds — over what to do about the Olympics scheduled for Tokyo this summer. Will there be any athletes or spectators? And it's only a matter of time before our famously germaphobic president starts to think twice about his political rallies, at least until the weather gets warmer, when he has promised that the virus will conveniently peter out. (But maybe not in Iran, one of the country's hardest hit, where it's already pretty rampant.)

Parents of school-age children must be going out of their minds right now. What if American schools really do close? A whole district in Washington state has shut, and no schools at all are open in 11 other counties. Weeks of the kids at school — a dramatic scale-back of family regulations limiting screen time.

For people who live on farms or in the country, the prospect may not seem so dire. They're not accustomed to crowds anyway. But for those of us who live in cities or suburbs, the idea of so much emptiness, of being walled off from one another, is hard to get one's head around. It couldn't really happen, could it? The highways turned into eerie corridors. No March Madness. No lines at the Smithsonian or theme parks or music festivals. Times Square a ghost town.

The likelihood is, no, it probably won't get crazily weird — not sci-fi weird, as if the entire population had been zapped. For one thing, the homeless won't be going anywhere, and neither will people like caregivers and sanitation workers. (We know this from "The Decameron.") The only people who get to survive the plague are the rich.) And surely there will be rebels, renegades, daredevils, disbelievers. Saboteurs, maybe. Some knucklehead on Twitter recently proclaimed that if she came down with the virus, she would attend as many MAGA gatherings as possible. Will knuckleheads on the other side



NOBUKI ITO, KYODO NEWS/AP

The stands are empty during the Davis Cup tennis qualifier between Ecuador and Japan in Miid, Japan, on Friday, as it is held without spectators amid growing concern about the spread of a new coronavirus.

want to start invading Planned Parenthood centers, vigorously coughing and offering to shake hands with everyone?

But life will be different, and I don't think it will be fun. Trying to imagine such a future, I've realized that, like a lot of people, I am already somewhat self-quarantined and don't need to be cut off any further. I do my banking with a card and a machine. Our local supermarket contains self-checkout registers. You do your own scanning, your own bagging, and never see or speak to a cashier. Sadly, that means I've longer greeted as "Hon" by the very nice woman who used to run the express lane register. Not a big deal, but I used to look forward to it.

The phone in our house almost never rings anymore except when it's a robo-call. Like a lot of writers, I can go for days without speaking to another human being besides my wife. I do all my communicating by email. So a nationwide quarantine wouldn't affect me that much. Even so, I like to think of myself as part of a larger community, and the thought of being forcibly cut off from it is disquieting. We are social animals, as the scientists keep reminding us, and I don't think we're meant to be quarantined. We like to be together. That's why actually going to a ballgame is much more fun than watching one on TV, and why the idea of a ballgame with no one in attendance except a cameraman and an

umpire or two seems not just unnatural but almost tragic. We like rooting, we like public demonstrations of fan-feeling.

Something similar is true of going to the movies, though we seem to be doing that less and less these days. Watching with others adds intimacy. We like sharing the same moments. How else to explain Ultra, the electronic-music festival that draws tens of thousands of fans, many of them wearing next to nothing, to Miami each March? It, too, just got canceled.

We also govern ourselves as a group, to take one very important aspect of our social nature, and it seems especially unfortunate that the coronavirus should come along right in the middle of campaign season. You could argue that if they have to close down Congress, it won't make much difference, since Congress doesn't do anything anyway. But will we now see our candidates only on the screen? No rope lines, no flesh pressed, no babies held up to be kissed?

Silly and old-fashioned, you could say, but this is what American politics is like. We want to be reminded every now and then that our politicians are human beings, not just driven talking heads. We also need to talk to one another, and not just online, about whom we're going to vote for and why. We need to ring doorbells. And when we disagree we need to be able to smirk, roll our eyes, shake our heads, stamp our feet, raise our voices if necessary.

So if the situation really does get bad, and we're required to sequester ourselves for a while, I suspect we will greatly miss all the mindless little social interactions that we now take for granted: the waves, the hellos, the held-open doors, even being told to have a nice day. We'll miss being around each other.

After the SARS epidemic of 2003, Chinese businessmen rushed to take up golf, even though the game was frowned on by the government, because it was unthinkable there to make deals except face to face, and people wanted to avoid tight indoor spaces. Dozens of new courses had to be built, some practically overnight.

But golf isn't for everyone. An even better, more virus-proof meeting place I see is the drive-in. Drive-in movies could really make a comeback. I can picture lots of us heading there in the evening, the kids half-asleep in the back seat. It will be great to get out of the house. I imagine us all happily beeping at one another and waving through our windshields, as if to say: "We're still here. We're all OK, thanks. Nice to see you."

Charles McGrath is a former editor of The New York Times Book Review and deputy editor of the New Yorker.

A man posts a note Thursday advising that the Ennio Quirino Visconti school in Rome will be closed through March 15. Italy's virus outbreak has been concentrated in Lombardy, a northern region, but fears over how the virus is spreading prompted the government to close schools and universities for two weeks.

ANDREW MEDICINA/AP

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Roundup

No. 1 Jayhawks top Red Raiders, take Big 12 title

Associated Press

LUBBOCK, Texas — No. 1 Kansas wrapped up its outright Big 12 regular-season title Saturday, beating Texas Tech 66-62 behind Udoka Azubuike's 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Devon Dotson had 17 points and Ochai Agbaji had 12 for the Jayhawks (28-3, 17-1), the Big 12's first champion in a decade with only one loss in league play. Kansas was 15-1 in 2009-10, two seasons before the Big 12 expanded to an 18-game schedule.

The Red Raiders (18-13, 9-9 Big 12), last year's national runner-up after sharing the Big 12 title with Kansas State, had a chance to tie the game with 2.8 seconds left. But Davide Moretti, who made a three-pointer only seconds earlier, missed from long range. Texas Tech guard fell to floor after contact with Marcus Garrett but was not fouled.

Moretti had 18 points, while TJ Holyfield had 11 points for the Red Raiders, who lost their fourth game in a row when trying to get back into the NCAA Tournament.

West Virginia 76, No. 4 Baylor 64: Emmitt Matthews scored a season-high 18 points and freshman Oscar Tshiebo had 16 points and 12 rebounds as the host Mountaineers used a big second-half run to deny the Bears the chance to earn a tie for the Big 12 regular-season championship.

Baylor (26-4, 15-3 Big 12) went more than eight minutes without a field goal midway through the second half to take themselves out of contention and hand the championship to top-ranked Kansas.

Instead, it was West Virginia (21-10, 9-9) celebrating. The sellout crowd stormed the court after the Mountaineers' second

straight win and just the third in nine games.

No. 6 Kentucky 71, Florida 70: Nick Richards scored 17 of his 19 points in the second half as the visiting Wildcats rallied from 18 points down.

Shorthanded Kentucky (25-6, 15-3 Southeastern Conference) needed the comeback to avoid losing consecutive games for the first time in nearly three months.

Richards, Keion Brooks Jr. and EJ Montgomery led the shocker. Brooks hit a floater in the lane with 59 second remaining to cut the lead to 70-69. The Gators followed with a shot-clock violation on the other end, giving the Wildcats a chance to take their first lead of the game.

Brooks missed a driving layup, and Montgomery's tip-in was initially waived off as a cylinder violation. Officials reviewed it and gave Montgomery the basket for a 71-70 lead.

No. 7 Florida State 80, Boston College 62: Balsa Koprivica scored 15 points, and the host Seminoles won their first Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title in school history.

Dominik Olejniczak added a season-high 14 points as FSU (26-5, 16-4) had a banner ready to celebrate their accomplishment, which was secured with Virginia's victory over No. 10 Louisville.

No. 13 Oregon 80, Stanford 67: Peyton Priddy led the Ducks (24-7, 13-5) with 29 points and fellow senior Anthony Mathis added 14 as Oregon finished 17-0 at home this season. Will Richardson added 12 points for the Ducks, who shot 56.9% from the field. Oregon made 10 of 19 three-pointers, four each by Prichard and Mathis.

No. 11 Creighton 77, No. 8 Seton Hall 60: Marcus Zega-



BRAD TOLLEFSON/AP

Texas Tech's TJ Holyfield, left, defends against Kansas' Udoka Azubuike, who has 15 points and 11 rebounds in a 66-62 win Saturday for the Big 12 regular-season title in Lubbock, Texas.

rowski made all five of his three-pointers and finished with 23 points as the host Bluejays earned a share of the Big East Conference regular-season title.

Creighton (24-7, 13-5) claimed all or part of their first conference title since winning the Missouri Valley outright in 2012-13. They joined the Big East the next season.

No. 12 Duke 89, North Carolina 76: Vernon Carey Jr. had 25 points and 10 rebounds, while graduate reserve Justin Robinson offered a huge spark for 12th-ranked Duke.

Robinson, son of retired NBA great David Robinson, matched career highs with 13 points and six rebounds to go with a career-best four blocks for the Blue Devils (25-6, 15-5 Atlantic Coast Conference). They never trailed in this one but didn't put away the Tar Heels until the final six minutes.

No. 14 Villanova 70, Georgetown 69: Jermaine Samuels had a three-point play with 5.6 sec-

onds left as the visiting Wildcats survived a late scare to clinch a share of the Big East regular-season title.

Samuels was fouled on a drive by the Hoyas' Jamorko Pickett and Qudus Wahab blocked the shot. After a video review, the basket counted and Samuels made the subsequent free throw to put the Wildcats up by one.

Saddiq Bey led Villanova (24-7, 13-5 Big East) with 18 points and Samuels and Jeremiah Robinson-Earl each had 13.

No. 17 Auburn 85, Tennessee 63: Samir Doughty made 8 of 13 three-pointers and finished with 32 points as the Tigers won on the road to snap a two-game skid.

Auburn (25-6, 12-6) now heads to Nashville to defend its Southeastern Conference Tournament championship. The Tigers have a double-bye to the quarterfinals.

Northwestern 80, No. 20 Penn State 69: Miller Kopp scored 21 points to lead the host Wildcats as the Nitrary Lions lost for the fifth time in six games.

Penn State (21-10, 11-9) came in looking to head into the Big Ten Tournament on a winning note, only to stumble against one of the worst teams in the conference. Northwestern (8-22, 3-17) beat a ranked team for the first time since knocking off No. 20 Michigan two years ago.

No. 24 Wisconsin 60, Indiana 56: Nate Reuvers scored 17 points and the visiting Badgers held the Hoosiers to just one basket over the final 10 minutes to clinch at least a share of the Big Ten regular-season title.

Micha Potter added 14 points and 11 rebounds for Wisconsin (21-10, 14-6), which has won eight straight.

Ohio Valley tournament

Belmont 76, Murray State 75: Tyler Scanlon scored 17 points, including a layup with three seconds remaining to lift top-seeded Belmont over second-seeded Murray State in the championship game of the Ohio Valley Conference tournament.

No. 3 Dayton crushes George Washington in season finale

By MITCH STACY

Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — Dayton put the lid on a historic regular season by cutting down the nets as runaway Atlantic 10 Conference champions.

The No. 3 Flyers now look to the postseason to add another chapter to what has been one of college basketball's best stories.

Obi Toppin had 27 points — including seven dunks — to lead Dayton's 76-51 rout of George Washington on Saturday, its school-record 29th win. The Flyers (29-2) won their 20th straight, including all 18 A-10 games, ending the season undefeated at

home and in true road contest. Their only two losses were at neutral sites.

"We're not done yet," senior guard Trey Landers said.

Jalen Crutcher added 21 points on 5-for-8 shooting from three-point range for the Flyers, which will begin play as the likely No. 1 in the A-10 tournament that starts Wednesday in Brooklyn, N.Y. Landers had 10 rebounds.

Jamison Battle led the Colonials (12-19, 6-12) with 16 points and seven rebounds.

George Washington was in the game at halftime, thanks mostly to 6-of-16 three-point shooting. Despite missing their last seven shots of the half, the Flyers led 26-25

at the break.

Dayton wore the Colonials down in the second half with a 22-4 run. A three-pointer and layup from Crutcher put Dayton up 46-37 with 10:38 remaining, and George Washington couldn't shoot well enough late to overcome it. After a missed three by the Colonials' Maceo Jack, Crutcher hit another three while a pair of Toppin dunks pushed the Flyers' lead to 53-37 with 8:39 left. They cruised from there.

"That's really been the beauty of this team all year," Dayton coach Anthony Grant said. "They've been able to handle adversity in different ways that have come

at them and find a way to persevere. And they did it in a big-time fashion today. It was unbelievable."

The Flyers dispatched every conference opponent, though not always with ease.

For George Washington, an disappointing season ends at the hands of one of the country's hottest teams. Like most A-10 teams, the Colonials couldn't stay with Dayton as the second half wore on.

"Obviously, they've earned their ranking in the nation for as good a team as they are," George Washington coach Jamion Christian said. "We respected that, and they showed that today."

CAGE BASKETBALL

Scoreboard

Saturday's scores

EAST

Brown 70, Dartmouth 58
Cornell 85, Princeton 82
Drexel 66, UNC-Wilmington 55
George Mason 65, Fordham 67
Iowa 83, Yale 69
La Salle 78, Saint Joseph's 77
Penn 85, Columbia 65
Providence 83, DePaul 55
St. John's 88, Marquette 86
Villanova 70, Georgetown 69
West Virginia 76, Baylor 64

SOUTH

Alcorn St. 90, Texas Southern 75
Auburn 85, Tennessee 63
Chattanooga 78, UNC-Greensboro 68
Duke 89, North Carolina 76
Florida 50, Boston College 62
Georgia 89, Alabama 61
Jackson St. 54, Alabama A&M 51
Kentucky 71, Florida 70
LSU 54, Georgia 64
Louisiana Tech 66, Charlotte 43
La-Lafayette 76, North Carolina St. 66
Miami 69, Syracuse 65, OT
Middle Tenn. 65, Southern Miss. 62, OT
Mississippi St. 69, Mississippi 44
New Orleans 79, SE Louisiana 69
South Florida 61, SMU 69
Southern U. 89, Prairie View 80, OT
UAB 72, Old Dominion 63
Vanderbilt 83, South Carolina 74
Virginia 57, Louisville 54
W. Kentucky 91, FIU 85

MIDWEST

Bradley 76, Drake 66
Butler 72, Xavier 71
Cincinnati 64, Temple 63
Cleveland 77, Seton Hall 60
Dayton 76, George Washington 51
Kansas St. 79, Iowa St. 63
Missouri 69, Alabama 50
Northwestern 80, Penn St. 69
Ohio State 54, Virginia Tech 56
Rio Grande 79, Indiana Baptist 76, OT
Rutgers 71, Purdue 68, OT
Saint Louis 72, St. Bonaventure 49
Valparaiso 89, Missouri 81, 82
Wisconsin 69, Indiana 56

SOUTHWEST

Bilene Christian 71, Incarnate Word 66, OT
Kansas 66, Texas Tech 62
Texas A&M 66, Arkansas 71
Towson 74, Ark.-Pine Bluff 71
Marshall 82, UTSA 77
McNeese 50, Lamar 66
Northwestern St. 100, Cent. Arkansas 66
Oklahoma 78, TCU 76
Oklahoma St. 81, Texas 59
Stephen F. Austin 68, Sam Houston St. 57
Texas A&M 77, Arkansas 69
UTEP 77, Rice 72

FAR WEST

Arizona St. 83, Washington St. 74
CS Northridge 86, Hawaii 82
CS Northridge 78, Long Beach St. 69
E. Washington 78, Weber St. 69
Grand Canyon 64, CS Bakersfield 61
Idaho 80, Idaho St. 77
N. Colorado 75, Montana 61
Ohio 80, Stanford 69
Oregon St. 74, California 56
Portland St. 76, Sacramento St. 72
Utah 89, Montana 80
Southern Cal 54, UCLA 52
Idaho 80, Stanford 69
UC Santa Barbara 69, Cal Poly 67
Utah 74, Colorado 72, OT
Washington 69, Arizona 63

Men's

conference tournaments

America East Conference

First Round

Saturday, March 7
Hartford UMass Lowell 75
Stony Brook 76, Albany 73
UMBC 76, New Hampshire 67
Vermont 61, Maine 50

Semifinals

Tuesday, March 10
UMBC at Vermont

Hartford at Stony Brook

Atlantic Coast Conference

At Greensboro, N.C.

First Round

Tuesday, March 10
Wake Forest vs. Pittsburgh
Virginia Tech vs. North Carolina

Second Round

Wednesday, March 11
Clemson vs. Miami

NC State vs. Wake Forest-Pittsburgh

winner

Notre Dame vs. Boston College

Syracuse vs. Virginia Tech-North Carolina

Atlantic Sun Conference

Championship

Sunday, March 8

Liberty vs. Lipscomb

Big East Conference

At New York

First Round

Wednesday, March 11
Georgetown vs. St. John's

Xavier vs. DePaul

Big South Conference

At Radford, Va.

Semifinals

Friday, March 6
Winthrop 78, Gardner-Webb 66
Hampton 86, Radford 78

Championship

Sunday, March 8
Winthrop vs. Hampton

Big 12 Conference

At Kansas City, Mo.

First Round

Wednesday, March 11
Oklahoma State vs. Iowa State

Colonial Athletic Association

At Washington

First Round

Saturday, March 7
Drexel 66, UNC-Wilmington 55

Quarterfinals

Exel 66, James Madison 61

Sunday, March 8

Hofstra vs. Drexel

College of Charleston vs. Delaware

William & Mary vs. Elon

Conference USA

At Frisco, Texas

First Round

Wednesday, March 11
Old Dominion vs. Florida Atlantic

UAB vs. Rice

Marshall vs. UTEP

Horizon League

At Indianapolis

Semifinals

Monday, March 9
Ill.-Chicago vs. Wright St.

Green Bay vs. Northern Kentucky

Championship

Tuesday, March 10
Semifinal winners

Missouri Valley Conference

At St. Louis

Quarterfinals

Friday, March 6
Drake 77, St. Louis 66

Bradley 64, N. Illinois 59

Valparaiso 74, Loyola of Chicago 73, OT

Missouri St. 78, Indiana St. 51

Semifinals

Saturday, March 7
Bradley 76, Drake 66

Valparaiso vs. Missouri St. 82

Championship

Sunday, March 8
Bradley vs. Valparaiso

Mountain West Conference

At Las Vegas

Semifinals

Friday, March 6
San Diego St. 81, Boise St. 68

Utah St. 89, Wyoming 82

Championship

Saturday, March 7
Utah St. 59, San Diego St. 56

Northeast Conference

Semifinals

Saturday, March 7
Saint Francis (Pa.) vs. Duquesne Heart 2

Robert Morris 86, LIU Brooklyn 66

Championship

Tuesday, March 10
Semifinal winners

Ohio Valley Conference

At Evansville, Ind.

Championship

Saturday, March 7
Belmont 76, Murray St. 75

Patrol League

At Higher-Seeded Schools

Semifinals

Sunday, March 8
Lafayette vs. Colgate

Boston U. vs. Bucknell

Championship

Wednesday, March 11
Semifinal winners

Southern Conference

At Asheville, N.C.

First Round

Friday, March 6
VMI 96, Samford 78

Wofford 83, The Citadel 76

Quarterfinals

Saturday, March 7
Chattanooga 78, UNC-Greensboro 68

ETSU 70, VMI 57

Western Carolina 70, Mercer 56

Wofford 77, Furman 68

Semifinals

Sunday, March 8
ETSU vs. Western Carolina

Wofford vs. Chattanooga

Summit League

At Sioux Falls, S.D.

First Round

Saturday, March 7
North Dakota St. 71, Denver 69

Fort Wayne 71, South Dakota St. 74

Sunday, March 8

Oral Roberts vs. Nebraska-Omaha

South Dakota vs. North Dakota

Sun Belt Conference

First Round

Saturday, March 7
Louisiana 73, Arkansas 63

Coastal Carolina 63, UT Arlington 62

Second Round

Monday, March 9
Louisiana at Georgia Southern

Coastal Carolina at Appalachian State

West Coast Conference

At Las Vegas

Quarterfinals

Saturday, March 7
San Francisco 72, Pacific 54

Saint Mary's (Cal) 89, Pepperdine 82, 201

Semifinals

Monday, March 9
Gonzaga vs. San Francisco

BYU vs. Saint Mary's (Cal)

Championship

Tuesday, March 10
Semifinal winners

Aggies stun No. 5 Aztecs

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Sam Merrill once again lifted Utah State to a Mountain West Tournament title.

Merrill hit a contested three-pointer with 2.5 seconds to play to give the Aggies a 59-56 victory over No. 5 San Diego State and clinch a spot in the NCAA Tournament for the second straight season on Saturday.

The Aztecs (30-2), who led by as many as 16 points in the first half, had a chance to force overtime, but Malachi Flynn's three-point shot from just beyond half court rattled in and out at the buzzer.

The loss was San Diego State's second in its last six games after starting the season 26-0. Meanwhile, Utah State, which entered Saturday's game on the NCAA Tournament bubble, improved to 7-1 in its last eight games. Aggies (26-8) are back in the Big Dance in consecutive seasons for the first time since a three-year run from 2009-11.

"I know that's easy for me to say being on the victorious side, but that was a whale of a basketball game between two highly competitive, very, very talented teams," said Utah State coach Craig Smith. "It felt like one of those games where whoever is going to have the ball last is going to find a way to win, and then they almost throw in a half-court. It was a heavyweight fight, and we knew it was going to go 15 rounds. Fortunately for us, we were the last man standing."

Merrill has been shouldering the load for Utah State for most of the last two seasons, so it was hardly a surprise that Smith made sure the ball was in the hands of his senior guard in the waning minutes.

After Flynn barely missed a three-pointer from the wing with

ISAAC BREKKE/AP

Utah State's Sam Merrill, who hit a game-winning three-pointer, lifts the trophy for MVP after the Aggies defeated No. 5 San Diego State 59-56 in the Mountain West Conference tournament championship Saturday in Las Vegas.

25 seconds left that would've given San Diego State a 59-56 lead, Merrill secured the rebound and calmly dribbled up court. With Aztecs guard KJ Feagin playing tight defense, everyone inside the Thomas & Mack Center knew who would be launching the last-second shot.

With the clock ticking down and Feagin's hand in his face, Merrill left his feet and hit the shot.

"I was just trying to get a good look," Merrill said. "I barely slept last night, partially because the schedule is rough when you play that late-night game Friday night and it's a quick turnaround. I only got a few hours of sleep, but I was just hoping that I'd get that opportunity. And I had a vision that I was going to. I just threw it up there — well, I mean, I shot it — and it went in."

Feagin said he did all he could do defensively.

"I felt like up until the release

of the shot, I was right there on every move," he said. "But props to him for making a good shot."

Unlike in last year's Mountain West Tournament title game, when San Diego State trailed most of the way and lost 64-57, the Aztecs were in total control throughout the first half Saturday. After falling behind 7-2 to start the game, they went on a pair of 11-0 spurts in building a 27-11 lead.

On one point, Utah State went nearly 13 minutes without a field goal, missing 11 straight shots and scoring just four points, all on free throws. Merrill finally snapped the drought when he made three consecutive baskets (including a three-pointer) in a little over a minute to cut San Diego State's lead to 27-18.

Flynn paced the Aztecs with 16 points, while Yanni Wetzell (12 points, 13 rebounds) recorded a double-double.

Clark's trey carries Cavs past Cardinals

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Kihei Clark is making a habit of late-game heroics for No. 22 Virginia, and it couldn't have come at a better time with the postseason looming next.

Clark scored 18 points, including a three-pointer with 28 seconds left, and No. 22 Virginia recovered after blowing a 14-point second half lead to beat No. 10 Louisville 57-54 on Saturday.

"I'm always confident. My teammates allow me to be confident and I know they trust me to make the play whether it's a pass or a shot," Clark said after his second clutch three-pointer in the closing seconds in the past four games. He also hit one at Virginia Tech, giving the Cavaliers a 56-53 victory on Feb. 26.

Coach Tony Bennett continues to be impressed by his 5-foot-9 sophomore.

"He's done it and he continues to do it and he made the big shot," Bennett said. "... I can't

say enough about what he's going on inside here."

Virginia (23-7, 15-5 Atlantic Coast Conference), the reigning national champion that lost four of five in one stretch this year, tied with the Cardinals for second in the league.

No one, it seems, is playing better than the Cavaliers, who won for the 10th time in 11 games.

"Did you think it was going to end any other way?" Bennett joked, noting that his players "were really close when we were losing and we're still really close when we're winning." His team, he added, "moved the needle a little bit."

Mamadi Diakite added 17 points and eight rebounds for Virginia in his final game at John Paul Jones Arena. Jay Huff scored 11 points and blocked a shot from in close by Steven Enoch with 51 seconds and grabbed the rebound.

Jordan Nowora had 18 points and 11 rebounds, and Enoch scored 11 points for the Cardinals. (24-7, 15-5).

LEE LUTWYK JR./AP

NHL

Giroux, Hart lead Flyers to ninth straight win

By Aaron Bracy
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Flyers are still streaking. And they have Carter Hart to thank for that.

Hart made 38 saves, including some brilliant stops during Philadelphia's lackluster first period, and Claude Giroux scored twice to lead the Flyers to their ninth straight victory, 3-1 over the Buffalo Sabres on Saturday night.

"Carter Hart was the best player on the ice," Flyers coach Alain Vigneault said. "Our other 18 guys were OK. Our goaltender had his best stuff and that was the difference."

Joel Farabee also scored and Jakub Voracek and Travis Sanheim each had a pair of assists for Philadelphia, which remained tied for first place with Washington in the Metropolitan Division. The Capitals beat Pittsburgh 5-2 earlier Saturday.

"Good teams find ways to win," Vigneault said.

Philadelphia improved to 25-5-4 at home, where Hart has been nearly unbeatable.



Flyers goalie Carter Hart blocks a shot during the first period against the Buffalo Sabres on Saturday in Philadelphia.

able. The 21-year-old netminder upped his home mark to 20-2-2.

"Having fun," Hart said. "That's prob-

ably the biggest thing with us right now. We're enjoying coming to the rink."

Dominik Kahnou scored for Buffalo, which has gone six games without a point for the first time since Dec. 28, 2015, to Jan. 8, 2016.

Buffalo dominated the opening period, and could've been up at least two goals if not for Hart. He stopped Sam Reinhart on a breakaway six minutes in and then made two good saves off a 2-on-1 about 4½ minutes later, first on Johan Larsson's slap shot and then Zemgus Girgensons' follow from close range.

"Carter made some huge saves for us," Giroux said. "And when we had a chance to put it in, we did."

Giroux's second goal of the night, which put Philadelphia ahead 2-1 with 10:32 left, was one for the highlight reel. Voracek's pass went off the stick of Buffalo defenseman Jake McCabe and into the air. Giroux wound up and connected just as the puck was landing on the ice, firing it past the left leg of goalie Carter Hutton for his 21st of the season.

"It was in the air and I was waiting for it

to land," Giroux said.

Farabee made it 3-1 with 5:11 remaining after a gaffe by the Sabres. Buffalo defenseman Rasmus Ristolainen passed back to Hutton from inside the defensive zone. Farabee pressured the goalie, intercepting Hutton's attempt at a return pass to Ristolainen before shooting between Hutton's legs.

Farabee was recalled Thursday from Lehigh Valley of the AHL, to fill in for injured James van Riemsdyk (broken hand).

"If he doesn't forecheck hard, he doesn't score," Giroux said. "He hustled for the goal."

It was a great break for the Flyers, and the kind teams on winning streaks get.

Meanwhile, the Sabres played well but only had another defeat to show for it.

"The fight was there, the effort was there, we liked so many things we saw, but we sure don't like the result," coach Ralph Krueger said. "We need to get some fruits from all this labor."

Buffalo star Jack Eichel extended the longest drought of his five-year career to seven games without a point.

Roundup

Capitals strike early, thrash Penguins

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Nic Dowd scored twice for the first career multi-goal game, Braden Holtby stopped 26 shots and the Washington Capitals beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 5-2 on Saturday.

Nicklas Backstrom, Richard Panik and TJ Oshie also scored for the Capitals, who created a life-breathing room over their longtime rivals in the scramble atop the Metropolitan Division. First-place Washington moved five points clear of third-place Pittsburgh with less than a month to go in the regular season.

"I think the win means a lot, but I think the way we played means more," Oshie said. "Obviously, gave up a couple there late. But on the top all the way down, everyone had the same effort tonight."

Sidney Crosby scored for the third straight game for Pittsburgh and Evgeni Malkin added his 22nd. Matt Murray finished with 21 saves. The Penguins have lost seven of their last nine to fall a little off the pace in the NHL's most competitive division.

Lightning 5, Bruins 3: Anthony Cirelli and Mikhail Sergachev scored short-handed goals just 1:02 apart in the first period and Tampa Bay won at Boston.

Cedric Paquette and Alex Kilorn also scored for the Lightning, who took a 3-0 lead and then held off the Bruins after a wild second period. Nikita Kucherov scored an empty-net goal with 1:02 remaining as Tampa Bay ended Boston's four-game winning streak. Andrei Vasilevski made 35 saves.

The teams combined for 36 penalties and 96 penalty minutes in their second meeting in four days. Boston entered the game leading the Eastern Conference



The Capitals' Nic Dowd, left, celebrates with teammates after scoring on Penguins goaltender Matt Murray during the first period on Saturday in Pittsburgh.

with 98 points. The Lightning were tied for second with Washington with 89 points.

Hurricanes 3, Islanders 2 (OT): Vincent Trocheck batted a loose puck out of the air and into the net on a power play 1:36 into overtime and visiting Carolina ended a four-game losing streak.

During a scramble in front of the New York net, Trocheck knocked the puck past goaltender Thomas Greiss and sent the Islanders to their sixth straight loss (0-3-3).

The goal was confirmed after a lengthy review by the officials. The win kept Carolina two points behind the Islanders for the final wild card in the Eastern Conference.

Predators 1, Stars 0: Juuse Saros shut out Dallas for the second time in three days, and Ryan Ellis gained a measure of revenge with the only goal to lead visiting

Nashville.

Saros made 37 saves after stopping 33 in a 2-0 victory in Nashville on Thursday night. He has four shutouts this season and 11 overall, and is 6-0-1 against the Stars.

Ellis scored on a power play midway through the second period.

Kings 7, Wild 3: Dustin Brown had three goals and an assist and host Los Angeles won its fifth straight.

Blake Lizotte and Trevor Moore scored 53 seconds apart in the second period, Anze Kopitar had a goal and two assists and Gabriel Vilardi added a goal to help the Kings improve to 8-2-1 in their past 11 games.

The Wild had won six in a row on the road. They missed a chance to reclaim the first wild-card in the Western Conference.

Devils 6, Rangers 4: Travis

Zajac and Kyle Palmieri each scored twice and visiting New Jersey used a big second period to beat New York.

Fredrik Claesson and John Hayden also scored, and Damon Severson and Dakota Merks each had two assists to help the Devils improve to 6-1-2 in their past nine games. Mackenzie Blackwood stopped 31 shots to improve to 8-1-2 in his past 11.

Mika Zibanejad, Tony DeAngelo, Filip Chytil, and Greg McKegg each scored for the Rangers, who fell three points out of the two wild-card spots in the Eastern Conference.

Panthers 4, Canadiens 1: Backup goalie Chris Driedger stopped 33 shots, Mike Hoffman had a goal and an assist, and Florida snapped an eight-game home losing streak.

On a night when Roberto Luongo's number was retired, the former Florida goalie gave the team a pep talk during a pregame ceremony — and the Panthers took it to heart.

Lucas Wallmark, MacKenzie Weegar and Jonathan Huberdeau also scored for Florida, which moved within three points of idle Toronto in the Atlantic Division.

Senators 2, Sharks 1 (OT): Chris Tierney scored 35 seconds into overtime after missing an earlier chance on a penalty shot, and visiting Ottawa won for the fourth time in five games.

Nick Paul also scored for the Senators in the opener of a five-game road trip, their longest of the season.

Oilers 4, Blue Jackets 1: Mikko Koskinen made 45 saves and Alex Chiasson had a goal and an assist as host Edmonton beat Columbus to move into a tie for first place in the Pacific Division with Vegas.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division		W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	69	43	14	12	98	225	174
Tampa Bay	68	43	21	10	91	240	188
Toronto	69	35	25	9	79	236	226
Montreal	68	34	26	8	76	225	227
Buffalo	67	31	30	9	71	210	217
Florida	68	29	31	8	66	192	215
Detroit	69	25	32	12	62	187	235
	66	16	48	5	37	138	258

Metropolitan Division

Washington	68	41	20	7	89	238	212
Philadelphia	69	39	22	6	84	237	188
Pittsburgh	67	35	23	9	79	188	188
N.Y. Islanders	67	35	23	9	79	188	188
Columbus	68	32	25	11	74	193	183
Carolina	66	36	25	5	77	211	189
N.Y. Rangers	68	34	26	4	76	228	217
New Jersey	68	28	28	12	68	187	225

Western Conference

Western Conference								
	Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
St. Louis	68	40	18	10	90	218	189	
Colorado	67	40	19	8	88	229	183	
Dallas	68	37	23	8	82	178	173	
Nashville	68	34	26	8	76	211	215	
Winnipeg	69	35	28	6	76	208	199	
Minnesota	68	34	27	7	75	215	216	
Chicago	68	31	29	8	70	206	214	

Pacific Division

Edmonton	69	37	24	8	82	221	210
Vegas	69	37	24	8	82	219	206
Calgary	69	36	26	7	79	207	210
Vancouver	67	35	26	6	76	222	211
San Jose	68	31	28	9	74	193	183
Anaheim	68	28	32	8	64	176	215
Ottawa	68	24	34	10	58	175	215
Los Angeles	68	27	35	6	60	172	209

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss, and zero points for each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Friday's games

New Jersey @ St. Louis	7:00
Detroit @ Chicago	7:00
Calgary @ Arizona	7:00
Anaheim @ Toronto	7:00
Vancouver @ Colorado	7:00

Saturday's games

St. Louis @ Carolina	7:00
Los Angeles @ Minnesota	7:00
New Jersey @ N.Y. Rangers	7:00
Philadelphia @ Pittsburgh	7:00
Ottawa @ St. Louis	7:00
Tampa Bay @ Boston	7:00
Florida @ Columbus	7:00

Sunday's games

Carolina @ Pittsburgh	1:00
Tampa Bay @ Detroit	1:00
Vegas @ Chicago	1:00
Minnesota @ Anaheim	1:00
Colorado @ Columbus	1:00
Columbus @ Vancouver	1:00
Monday's games	
Washington @ Buffalo	7:00
Florida @ St. Louis	7:00
Boston @ Edmonton	7:00
Colorado @ Los Angeles	7:00

Tuesday's games

Vegas @ Dallas	7:00
Nashville @ Montreal	7:00
Pittsburgh @ New Jersey	7:00
Toronto @ Carolina	7:00
Carolina @ Detroit	7:00
N.Y. Rangers @ Dallas	7:00
N.Y. Islanders @ Vancouver	7:00
Ottawa @ Anaheim	7:00

NBA



NELL REDMOND/AP

Terry Rozier had 24 points to lead the Charlotte Hornets to a 108-99 defeat of the Houston Rockets.

Hornets' 20-0 start too much for Rockets

By RICHARD WALKER

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Charlotte Hornets scored the first 20 points and Terry Rozier finished with 24 to help the Hornets beat the slumping Rockets 108-99 on Saturday night.

The Rockets had eight turnovers and missed five three-pointers on their first 12 possessions.

"This was a good one for us tonight," said Hornets rookie P.J. Washington, who scored 22 points. "We felt like we should have won the last two so just coming out the same intensity that we did those last two games tonight and it got us a win so we are trying to look to do that the rest of the season."

Houston, which played without All-Star Russell Westbrook (rest), twice closed within three in the second quarter and within five in the third quarter. The Rockets have lost three straight after winning six straight and 10 of 12.

James Harden had 30 points, 10 rebounds and 14 assists for his 46th career triple-double and fourth this season. He also had 10 of Houston's 21 turnovers.

"I don't know," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said about the slow start. "I've never experienced that before, 20-0 that's a big deficit to overcome and for whatever reason when we did attack, we turned it over, it was kind of weird. And we couldn't stop them. Just a little bit of sluggishness, for whatever reason."

Added Harden: "We have to do a better job defensively to make our offense a lot better. We didn't make enough shots. Obviously, down 20-0 is tough to come back on anybody but we did, to give ourselves a chance, but we just couldn't continue to sustain that

kind of intensity throughout the four quarter game."

Robert Covington added 25 points for Houston, and Jeff Green had 20.

Devonte' Graham added 23 points for Charlotte. Cody Zeller had 13 and Miles Bridges 10.

Hornets coach James Borrego was happy with how his team responded to each challenge after Charlotte took the big early lead, especially when Houston had two potential tying three-pointers misfire in the second quarter.

"The momentum was shifting a little there," Borrego said. "Our heads were hanging for a second. I could feel it. We called a timeout there and rallied the troops again and everybody picked their spirits up."

Tip-ins

Rockets: Rookie guard Chris Clemens estimated 200 fans came to see his first NBA game in his home state. The former Raleigh Millbrook High and Campbell University standout was recalled from the G-League on Friday. Clemens led the NCAA in scoring last season with a 30.1 average and is Big South Conference scoring leader with 3,225 points. He did not play Saturday.

Hornets: Charlotte entered Saturday with its seventh losing streak this season of three or more games. It's the most losing streaks of three or more games by the franchise since the 2014-15 season when it had eight.

Up next

Rockets: Host Orlando on Sunday night.

Hornets: At Atlanta on Monday night.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	44	18	.710	—
Boston	42	20	.677	2
Philadelphia	38	26	.594	7
Brooklyn	28	34	.452	16
New York	19	44	.302	25½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	40	23	.635	—
Orlando	28	35	.444	12
Washington	23	39	.371	16½
Charlotte	22	41	.349	18
Atlanta	15	46	.252	22
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	53	10	.841	—
Indiana	38	25	.603	15
Chicago	31	42	.533	32
Minnesota	20	44	.313	33½
Detroit	18	45	.286	35
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	39	23	.629	—
Dallas	39	25	.609	1
Memphis	32	32	.500	8
New Orleans	27	36	.429	12½
San Antonio	26	39	.406	12½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	41	22	.657	1
Oklahoma City	39	24	.619	3
Portland	28	37	.431	15
Minnesota	18	43	.306	22½
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-L.A. Lakers	48	13	.787	—
L.A. Clippers	35	19	.694	5½
Sacramento	28	35	.444	21
Phoenix	25	38	.397	24
Golden State	15	49	.234	34½
Saturday's games				
Charlotte 108, Houston 99				
Utah 111, Detroit 105				
New York at Washington				
Memphis 118, Atlanta 101				
Golden State 118, Philadelphia 114				
Sacramento 123, Portland 111				
Sunday's games				
Chicago at Brooklyn				
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers				
Phoenix at Minnesota				
Milwaukee at Phoenix				
Oklahoma City at Boston				
Indiana at Dallas				
Miami at Washington				
Orlando at Houston				
Detroit at New York				
San Antonio at Cleveland				
Toronto at Sacramento				
Monday's games				
Charlotte at Denver				
Toronto at Utah				
Tuesday's games				
Boston at Indiana				
San Antonio at Washington				
Cleveland at Houston				
Philadelphia at Chicago				
Minnesota at Oklahoma City				
Brooklyn at Memphis				
Phoenix at Portland				
Dallas at San Antonio				
Orlando at L.A. Lakers				
L.A. Clippers at Golden State				
Wednesday's games				
Detroit at Philadelphia				
Charlotte at Miami				
New York at Atlanta				
Denver at Dallas				
Utah at Oklahoma City				
New Orleans at Sacramento				

Roundup

Warriors, minus Curry, beat 76ers, stop slump at 10

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Eric Paschal scored 23 points, including a pair of free throws with 51.7 seconds remaining, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Philadelphia 76ers 118-114 on Saturday night to snap a 10-game home losing streak.

Playing once again without Stephen Curry, the Warriors trailed most of the game and were down by eight entering the fourth quarter.

Curry, who returned from a 58-game absence to play Thursday night, was diagnosed with the flu and was held out. Golden State termed it a seasonal flu and said that Curry has begun treatment. The team also said that Curry is not at specific risk for COVID-19 or coronavirus.

"I know his young son was sick for a couple days so probably got it from his son," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "Our doctors checked him out and it is the basic flu."

The 76ers were missing stars Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons, while Golden State also was without Draymond Green.

Damion Lee's three-point play put the Warriors ahead 113-111. Tobias Harris answered with two free throws, but the Warriors called for a three-second violation on Philadelphia's next possession following Lee's missed three-point shot.

After Paschal made his two free throws, the Sixers missed three consecutive shots, including a 32-foot jumper by Shake Milton. Mychal Mulder then made two free throws and the 76ers got the ball back, but Furkan Korkmaz stepped out of bounds.

"It took until the fourth quarter to really get much traction defensively," Kerr said. "Philadelphia did a good job beating us inside for the first three quarters, but our guys hung in there and kept the game close. And then fourth quarter really turned up the defense and we got a lot of great individual performances, too."

Jazz 111, Pistons 105: Bojan Bogdanovic scored 32 points and visiting Utah withstood two big Detroit rallies for its fifth straight victory.

The Jazz led by 22 points in the second quarter, but the Pistons came all the way back to tie it early in the fourth. Detroit then went on an 18-2 run, but that big lead nearly slipped away as well. It was a one-possession game before Utah's Rudy Gobert made two free throws with 18.5 seconds left to make it 107-102.

The Jazz moved 1½ games



Ben Margot/AP

Golden State Warriors forward Eric Paschal, right, scores over Philadelphia 76ers guard Alec Burks during the Warriors' 118-114 win Saturday in San Francisco.

ahead of the Houston Rockets for the No. 4 spot in the Western Conference.

Donovan Mitchell scored 25 points for Utah. Christian Wood scored a career-high 30 points for Detroit. The Pistons lost for the 17th time in 21 games.

Cavaliers 104, Nuggets 102: Kevin Love scored 27 points, hitting the go-ahead basket with four minutes remaining, and short-handed Cleveland surprised visiting Denver for the second time this season.

Collin Sexton added 25 points and Matthew Dellavedova had a career-high 14 assists to help the Cavaliers end a four-game losing streak.

Will Barton led the Nuggets with 22 points. Gary Harris had 18.

Grizzlies 118, Hawks 101: Jonas Valanciunas had 27 points and 17 rebounds, rookie Ja Morant added 24 points and host Memphis beat Atlanta to keep its hold on the final Western Conference playoff spot.

Josh Jackson had 17 points, Dillon Brooks and DeAnthony Melton added 13 each and Memphis won its fourth in the last five. Valanciunas was 10 of 13 from the field and had three blocks.

John Collins led the Hawks with 27 points.

Kings 123, Trail Blazers 111: Bogdan Bogdanovic had 27 points and eight assists, Buddy Hield added 22 points and Sacramento won at Portland for its fourth victory in five games.

The Kings shot 21-for-39 on three-pointers, tying a franchise record for made threes.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Leagues may limit locker room access due to coronavirus

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

MIAMI — The NBA, NHL, Major League Baseball and Major League Soccer are all weighing plans to restrict access to locker rooms as a precaution to protect players from exposure to the coronavirus, as concern over the situation continued escalating Saturday.

Further, the NBA has told its teams that it has until Tuesday to develop a "plan to limit the number of team and arena staff... who interact with players" as part of their response strategies. NBA teams were also told to have an arrangement with an infectious disease specialist and to find a facility that could conduct testing for COVID-19.

"In light of the growing community spread of COVID-19 in the United States, and the emergence of community spread in Canada, we continue to closely monitor this situation and are having regular conversations with infectious disease and public health experts, including the CDC," the NBA told teams in the memo sent Saturday night.

No pro games in the U.S. have been called off yet. State officials in Florida said there were two presumptive cases of the virus in Broward County, where the Florida Panthers were facing the Montreal Canadiens on Saturday night.

The NBA told teams on Friday to prepare for the possibility of playing games in empty arenas, as some sports leagues in Europe have already done, an idea that Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James said he wanted no part of. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, at the Montreal-Florida game Saturday, would not answer if hockey has gone as far as to prepare for that contingency.

"I don't want to create any speculation or hysteria," Bettman said. "There are obviously a variety of consequences that we may have to focus on and we'll do that in the appropriate time, but let's not get ahead of ourselves here. OK? We're staying on top of it. We're in constant communication with our clubs and the players association and we're going to deal with this in as thorough, professional, on-top-of-it manner as possible. Let's everybody take a deep breath."

The NBA, in its Saturday night memo, also said teams quickly need a process to distribute hand sanitizer to all players and team staff and to ensure that supply does not run out.

The NBA also urged teams to cut team travel parties "to essential individuals only," have team physicians join an upcoming road trip to study ways of limit-

"We're focused on the fact that the tightness, the crowdedness and the intimacy of postgame availability may need to be adjusted."

Gary Bettman
NHL commissioner

ing germ-exposure on the road and work with vendors — like bus companies, hotels and meal providers — to understand their cleaning practices and ensure they have minimal contact with players.

"There's a lot of due diligence going on," Brooklyn general manager Sean Marks said.

Closing locker rooms to essential personnel only would not eliminate media interviews with players before and after games but would simply move them to a different location, possibly a news conference setting. The changes would, in theory, would allow teams to know if anyone in those areas has been tested for illness.

"In consultation with infectious disease and public health experts, we're discussing with other sports leagues options to protect the health of everyone in our buildings, including those typically in our locker rooms," NBA spokesman Mike Bass said. "As always, we're committed to providing appropriate media access."

Flu hit a high-profile NBA player Saturday — but not the coronavirus. The Golden State Warriors said Stephen Curry tested positive for influenza and they started him on a treatment program.

"We have identified his probable source contact who is not part of basketball operations," the Warriors said. "He has no specific risk factors for COVID-19. He has the seasonal flu."

Bettman added that he would not be surprised if the closed locker room becomes an NHL-wide mandate for at least the short term "because it may be the prudent thing to do." He said it would be an "adjustment" and that no decisions would be permanent.

"We're focused on the fact that the tightness, the crowdedness and the intimacy of postgame availability may need to be adjusted while we're focusing on the coronavirus," Bettman said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Canadian health officials have been part of the talks with the leagues, offering guidance on certain matters.



PIERO CRUCIATTI, LA PRESSE/AP

A man wears a mask as he sits in the stands ahead of a Serie A soccer match in Parma, northern Italy, on Sunday. Spal players were ready to enter the field at Ennio Tardini stadium in Parma when they received the news that Italy's sports minister Vincenzo Spadafora said that the country's soccer federation should consider suspending the games.

Virus causes canceled events, empty stadiums across globe

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH
Associated Press

DUSSELDORF, Germany — The escalating virus outbreak brought more disruption to the sporting world on Saturday, with games canceled or played without spectators and news of possible quarantine for some athletes.

Saturday's game between Strasbourg and Paris Saint-Germain in the French soccer league was postponed the day before, while players from Liverpool and Bournemouth were the first in the English Premier League to go without pre-game handshakes.

The Barcelona marathon was postponed from March 15 to Oct. 25. Organizers offered the estimated 17,000 runners, about half of them from abroad, the choice of running the rescheduled race or reserving a place for March 2021.

British sporting events could soon be held without spectators, with a meeting between sports bodies, broadcasters and the government set to take place on Monday. A full slate of Serie A soccer games in Italy, which has Europe's largest number of virus cases, will be played Sunday in empty stadiums.

Some fans wore face masks to Liverpool's game, and to Barcelona's win over Real Sociedad in Spain. In Germany, the substitutes' benches were disinfected ahead of Wolfsburg's Bundesliga game against Leipzig. Time is running out to decide whether African Cup of Nations qualifiers will go ahead as planned this month.

In the world of cricket, England's squad was handed "community packs" including hand sanitizer, sterilizing wipes and

DID YOU KNOW?

All of the nine African countries with confirmed cases are also due to host qualifying games for the 2021 African Cup of Nations.

SOURCE: Associated Press

nasal sprays during its tour of Sri Lanka. Fist bumps replaced handshakes at a warm-up match. Australian player Marcus Labuschagne used hand sanitizer as his team lost to South Africa in a one-day international on Saturday.

In a rare case of an elite athlete being directly affected by the outbreak, the women's Six Nations rugby game between Scotland and France on Saturday was postponed after a Scottish player was diagnosed with the virus. The Scotstoun leisure complex in Glasgow, where the game was due to be played, was closed.

The Russian national women's football team is facing quarantine after playing a game in Germany amid the escalating COVID-19 outbreak.

Team doctor Eduard Bezuglov told Russian news agency RIA Novosti on Friday that the players' clubs had been given recommendations based on a decree from Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyanin.

The city has ordered anyone returning from countries with virus outbreaks, including Germany, to isolate themselves for 14 days.

"I'm sure they will all follow the recommendations. After all, you don't joke with these things. Looking after the players' health is the main thing right now," Bezuglov told RIA Novosti.

Russia beat Kosovo 5-0 in a

European Championship qualifier played in the German city of Wiesbaden on Friday because Russia doesn't recognize Kosovo as a state.

Around the world, more countries are canceling sporting events or holding them without spectators.

The start of the inaugural African basketball league in Senegal next week was postponed and at least two African countries, Morocco and Tunisia, have banned either all or visiting fans from attending soccer games in continental club competitions.

A European Tour golf event in Kenya scheduled to start March 12 was postponed indefinitely after the Kenyan government decided to stop all gatherings involving international visitors for at least a month.

The governing body of African soccer has some big decisions to make with upcoming events, including the African Nations Championship in Cameroon next month. That's Africa's second biggest soccer tournament. Cameroon has confirmed its first case of the virus.

All of the nine African countries with confirmed cases are also due to host qualifying games for the 2021 African Cup of Nations, Africa's biggest soccer event, at the end of this month. The Confederation of African Football said Saturday it had asked a team of medical experts to monitor the situation.

"We are not extremely worried but remain vigilant with regards to future matches and tournaments," CAF said.

Saudi Arabia announced there would be no spectators for competitions starting Saturday.

MMA/MLB

Zhang, Adesanya retain titles at UFC 248

Women's strawweight fight highlight of card

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Zhang Weili and Joanna Jedrzejczyk were left bloody, bruised and swollen after the strawweights staged one of the most spectacular title fights in recent mixed martial arts history.

And though the main event of UFC 248 couldn't measure up to that penultimate scrap, both champions are leaving Las Vegas with their belts.

Zhang defended her UFC 115-pound championship belt with a brutal split-decision victory over former champion Jedrzejczyk at UFC 248 on Saturday night.

Israel Adesanya then defended his middleweight title with an anti-climactic unanimous decision over Yoel Romero at T-Mobile Arena in the UFC's hometown.

After Zhang and Jedrzejczyk put on one of the most viscerally entertaining bouts in recent UFC history, Romero and Adesanya staged a snoozer that had fans booing and chanting obscenities. The contrast was stark, but the strawweights' brawl will be remembered a whole lot longer than the faults of the main event.

"That was a tough act to follow," UFC President Dana White said. "I'd have to say the best women's fight I've ever seen, and one of the best fights I've ever seen."

Zhang (21-1) and Jedrzejczyk (16-4) traded brutal punches and kicks throughout five technically fascinating rounds, badly damaging each other's faces. After the last of several standing ovations from the Las Vegas crowd, Zhang won the fight 48-47 on two judges' cards, while Jedrzejczyk won 48-47 on the third.

"I had a long way to get here," said Zhang, who had to move her training camp out of China due to the coronavirus outbreak. "It was very serious, but we made it."

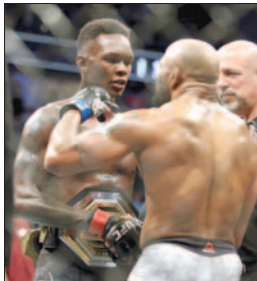
Zhang and Jedrzejczyk had a pre-fight animosity that carried straight into an uncommonly brutal bout in which the fighters traded big punches to the face from the opening round. Zhang's power appeared to make the difference early, and Jedrzejczyk's face showed every ounce of it late.

But Jedrzejczyk gathered herself late in the second round and had an outstanding third, switching to a southpaw stance and battering Zhang. The fourth round was more of the same brute punishment for both fighters.

Jedrzejczyk's forehead and eyes began to swell badly in the fifth round, while Zhang bled from cuts on her face. The fighters



PHOTOS BY STEVE MARCUS, ABOVE, AND L.E. BASROW, LEFT/AP



Above: UFC women's strawweight champion Zhang Weili, left, punches former champ Joanna Jedrzejczyk during their title fight Saturday at UFC 248. **Left:** UFC middleweight champ Israel Adesanya, left, speaks with challenger Yoel Romero after Adesanya's 48-47, 48-47, 49-46 unanimous decision victory in Las Vegas.

on Jedrzejczyk, who held the strawweight belt for 2½ years and defended it five times before losing in November 2017.

Zhang clearly has the potential to be a major part of the UFC's desire for global growth, but particularly in Asia. She is wildly popular in China, where MMA is rising in significance.

"She's going to be a massive star," White said of Zhang.

Adesanya (19-0) then defended his belt for the first time, winning 48-47, 48-47 and 49-46 on the judges' scorecards.

Romero (13-5) fought an extraordinarily passive fight. Adesanya appeared unable to figure out a way through the 42-year-old Cuban's defenses, but his efforts mattered more to the judges.

"I was really frustrated that my dance partner didn't want to dance," Adesanya said. "I've never been in a boring fight. I was expecting more of a fight from him."

Adesanya's fearsome counterpunching skills were useless largely because Rome-

ro barely threw a punch in the first two rounds. Adesanya only had occasional success in penetrating Romero's defenses, but Romero only threw 89 strikes — and landed only 40 — in the five-round fight.

Romero still took the microphone after the fight and criticized Adesanya for not fighting more aggressively.

Before the title fights, lightweight Beneil Dariush knocked out Drakkar Klose in the second round with one perfect left hand at the end of a spectacular back-and-forth sequence. Dariush (18-4-1) was staggered by Klose before he responded by stalking Klose across the canvas and landing the left hand that dislodged Klose's mouthpiece and rendered him unconscious on his feet.

On the preliminary card, elite bantamweight prospect Sugar Sean O'Malley went to 11-0 with a first-round stoppage of Jose Alberto Quinonez. The bout was O'Malley's first since March 2018, thanks to injuries and multiple positive doping tests.

MLB places limits on spring autographs amid virus concerns

By JAKE SEINER
Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — A baseball fan's treasure trove sat out on a table outside the San Francisco Giants clubhouse Saturday morning — hundreds of baseball cards signed by the franchise's biggest stars.

Buster Posey, Hunter Pence, Evan Longoria and more, all ready for eager autograph seekers at the club's spring training home in Scottsdale.

A generous gesture, but also a

measure aimed at keeping players and fans safe amid the coronavirus outbreak.

"You know just the amount of people that come to games, come to ask for autographs and stuff like that, that's the biggest fear," Longoria said. "But outside of that, what are you gonna do?"

That's what clubs are trying to figure out. The COVID-19 strain has already been diagnosed in patients in Florida and Arizona, the home bases for all 30 major league teams during spring training. Like pro sports leagues around the

world, Major League Baseball is trying to balance fan experience with public health.

At the Giants' facility in Scottsdale, personnel cleaned railings and seats around the ballpark shortly before fans began arriving for an afternoon game against the Chicago White Sox. Daily sanitizing measures have become standard practice in San Francisco's clubhouse too, as have reminders about hand-washing and warnings that ill players should stay home.

MLB has formed a task force to monitor the situation and provided

periodic updates to teams on measures to protect fans, players and team personnel — including the suggestion to have players pre-sign memorabilia.

The NBA sent a memo to its franchises Friday instructing them to prepare to play games without fans in the stadium if necessary. With opening day about three weeks away, MLB has not issued a similar warning.

Fans are still filling spring training parks, but they aren't getting quite the same access. Any other year, these spring games

are an ideal chance for young fans to meet their favorite stars during batting practice. On Saturday, the Giants adhered to club and league wishes and mostly stayed clear, save for a couple players and coaches who used their gloves to bump fists.

The Nationals tweeted their temporary autograph policy Saturday, informing fans they won't be able to bring their own memorabilia to meet-and-greet with players. Instead, the team is having players sign cards, programs and other items to be distributed.

SPORTS



All wrapped up
No. 1 Kansas secures Big 12
regular season title » **Page 18**

CORONAVIRUS

Empty feeling

Teams worldwide playing to barren stadiums as fans are told to stay home amid escalating virus outbreak » **Page 22**



Japan's professional baseball league said Thursday it will play its 72 remaining preseason games in empty stadiums because of the threat of the spreading coronavirus outbreak.

EUGENE HOSHIKO / AP

Zhang, Jedrzedczyk steal show at UFC 248 » MMA, Page 23



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